

Vol 1017

**5-IN-1**



# BUDDHIST STORIES

• Buddha • King Kusha • Angulimala • Amrapali • The Acrobat and Other Buddhist Tales







IN THE HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS, KAPILAVASTU WAS A SMALL BUT PROSPEROUS KINGDOM. THE SAKYAS RULED OVER IT. SUDDHODANA WAS THEIR KING.

ONE DAY, HIS QUEEN, MAYA-DEVII, DREAMT THAT A WHITE ELEPHANT WITH SIX TUSKS, PIERCED HER WOMB.



TEN MONTHS LATER THE QUEEN WAS ON HER WAY TO HER FATHER'S HOUSE. AS SHE WAS PASSING THROUGH A BEAUTIFUL GROVE ON THE WAY TO LUMBINI...



STOP! I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND SOME TIME HERE.

THE QUEEN GOT DOWN AND STARTED WALKING TOWARDS A SALA TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN. SUDDENLY...



I AM IN GREAT PAIN, I MUST REST.



THERE A BABY WAS BORN TO HER. IT WAS THE FULL MOON NIGHT OF VAISAKHA. THERE WAS SILENCE ALL AROUND.



ON HEARING THE NEWS, THE KING RUSHED TO LUMBINI AND BROUGHT THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD TO THE PALACE. SAGE ASITA CAME TO THE PALACE TO SEE THE BABY.



I SEE TEARS IN YOUR EYES, SAGE ASITA. WHY ARE YOU UNHAPPY?

THIS BOY WILL BE A KING OF KINGS...OR A GREAT SAINT. I AM CRYING BECAUSE I WILL NOT LIVE TO HEAR HIS GREAT WORDS.

BOTH THE KING AND THE QUEEN WERE HAPPY. ON THE FIFTH DAY—



LET US NAME HIM SIDDHARTHA.

AND WE WILL SEE THAT HE BECOMES A KING OF KINGS AND NOT A SAINT.

IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS THE QUEEN BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL.

ON THE SEVENTH DAY AFTER THE BIRTH OF SIDDHARTHA—



SISTER PRAJAPATI, I SHALL SOON LEAVE THIS WORLD. WHEN I AM GONE, PLEASE BE A KIND MOTHER TO SIDDHARTHA. PROMISE ME.

I PROMISE.

AFTER A YEAR HAD PASSED—



YOU HAVE  
BEEN A GOOD  
MOTHER  
TO HIM,  
PRAJAPATI.

I LOVE  
HIM DEARLY.  
I AM PROUD  
TO BE HIS  
MOTHER.

AS SIDDHARTHA GREW, THE KING BECAME ANXIOUS ABOUT THE PROPHECY.



HE SPENDS SO MUCH  
TIME ALONE, UNDER  
THAT JAMBU TREE.  
I DON'T LIKE THAT.

HE SAYS, HIS  
PLAYMATES  
PLAY CRUEL  
GAMES.


ONE DAY AS SIDDHARTHA WAS WALKING ALONG IN THE GARDEN—



POOR BIRD!  
I WONDER  
WHOSE  
ARROW HAS  
HURT HIM.

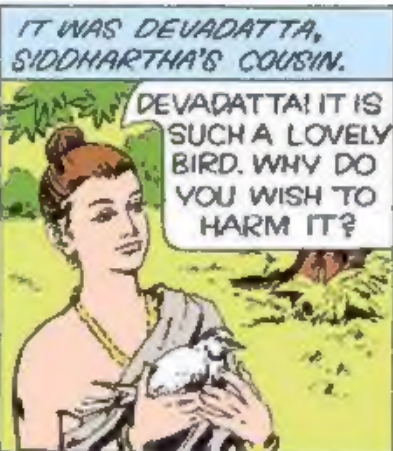


SIDDHARTHA GENTLY REMOVED THE ARROW AND TENDED TO THE BIRD'S WOUND. SOME TIME LATER -




THIS IS MY BIRD. I SHOT IT! GIVE IT TO ME.

IT WAS DEVADATTA, SIDDHARTHA'S COUSIN.



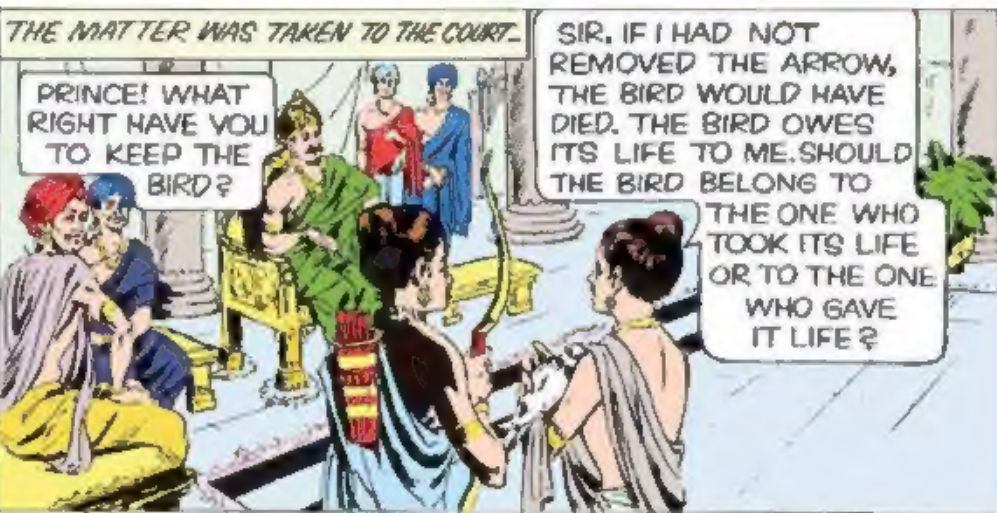
DEVADATTA! IT IS SUCH A LOVELY BIRD. WHY DO YOU WISH TO HARM IT?



THE BIRD BELONGS TO ME. GIVE IT BACK.

I WON'T DO THAT.

THE MATTER WAS TAKEN TO THE COURT -

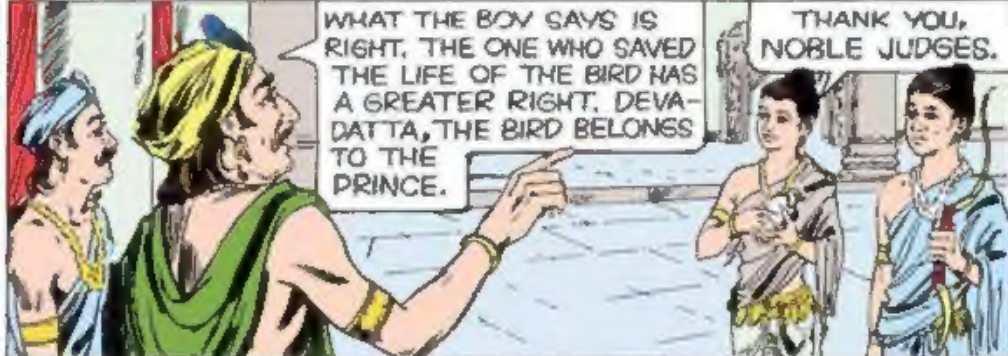


PRINCE! WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO KEEP THE BIRD?

SIR, IF I HAD NOT REMOVED THE ARROW, THE BIRD WOULD HAVE DIED. THE BIRD OWES ITS LIFE TO ME. SHOULD THE BIRD BELONG TO

THE ONE WHO TOOK ITS LIFE OR TO THE ONE WHO GAVE IT LIFE?





YEARS ROLLED BY. DANDARANI, A SAKYAN NOBLE ARRANGED THE SWAYAMVARA OF HIS DAUGHTER, YASHODHARA. PRINCES FROM FAR AND NEAR CAME TO THE SWAYAMVARA.



YASHODHARA CHOSE SIDDHARTHA AS HER HUSBAND.





THE ASSEMBLED PRINCES WERE HURT BY YASHODHARA'S CHOICE. THEY APPROACHED DANDAPANI.

SIR THE PRINCESS SHOULD NOT BE MARRIED TO SIDDHARTHA. HE IS NOT A GOOD FIGHTER.

SIR, YOU SHOULD HOLD A TEST IN ARCHERY. THE PRINCESS SHOULD BE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE TO THE WINNER.

DANDAPANI TRIED TO PERSUADE HIS DAUGHTER.

YASHODHARA! CHOOSE SOME-ONE ELSE AS YOUR HUSBAND.

FATHER, I HAVE MADE MY CHOICE. PLEASE AGREE TO IT.

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED KING SUDDHODANA, HE FELT SAD.

FATHER, WHY ARE YOU SAD?

THE PEOPLE DON'T THINK YOU ARE A GOOD WARRIOR.

FATHER, LET DANDAPANI HOLD A TEST. I WILL TAKE PART IN IT.

I AM HAPPY TO HEAR THAT. YOUR ANCESTORS WERE GREAT WARRIORS, SIDDHARTHA.



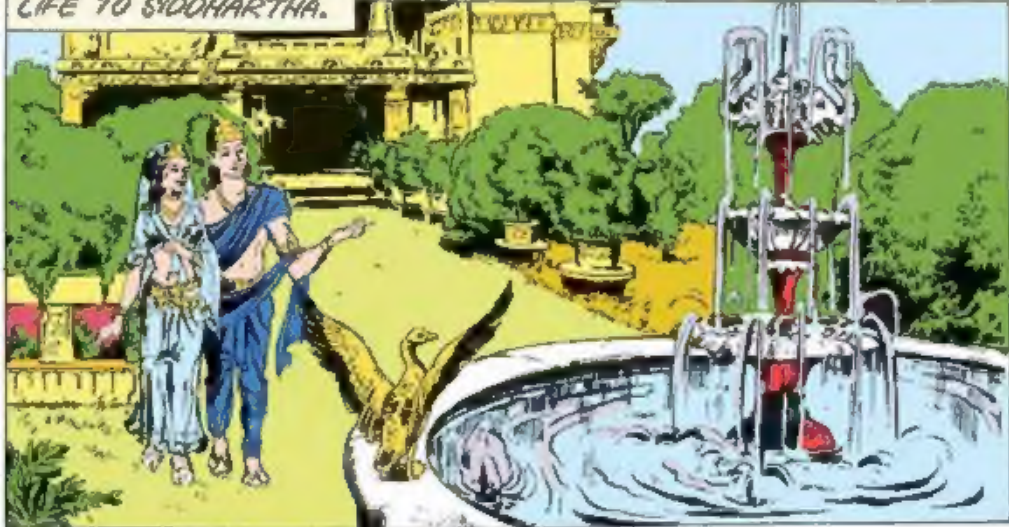
MANY GATHERED TO WITNESS THE TEST.



SIDDHARTHA AND YASHODHARA WERE MARRIED WITH GREAT POMF.



THE KING TRIED HIS BEST TO PROVIDE ALL THE COMFORTS OF LIFE TO SIDDHARTHA.





SOON, A SON WAS BORN TO THEM. KING SUDDHODANA WAS PLEASED WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS.

LORD!  
IT IS A  
BOY!

GOOD! NOW  
SIDDHARTHA  
WILL NEVER  
THINK OF  
BECOMING  
A SAINT.

ONE DAY...

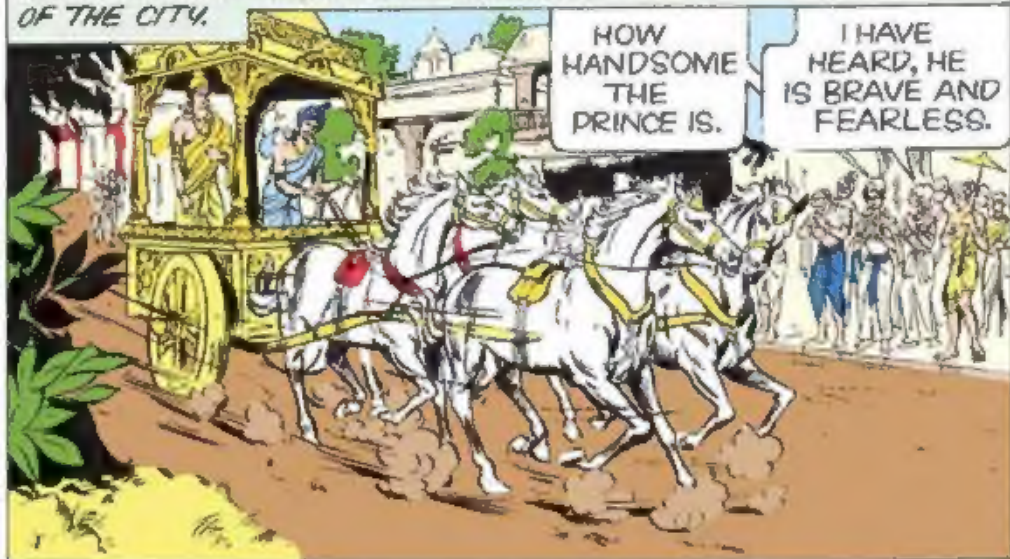
FATHER, I WOULD  
LIKE TO GO OUT  
OF THE PALACE  
AND SEE MORE  
OF THE WORLD.

I WILL ORDER A  
CHARIOT FOR YOU.  
AFTER IT IS  
READY, YOU  
CAN GO OUT  
IN IT.

A FEW DAYS LATER, IN A BEAUTIFUL CHARIOT WITH FOUR HORSES  
DRIVEN BY CHANINA, SIDDHARTHA DROVE THROUGH THE STREETS  
OF THE CITY.

HOW  
HANDSOME  
THE  
PRINCE IS.

I HAVE  
HEARD, HE  
IS BRAVE AND  
FEARLESS.





IN THE CITY, KING SUDDHODANA HAD ORDERED ALL SIGHTS OF UNHAPPINESS TO BE KEPT AWAY FROM SIDDHARTHA. BUT AS HE DROVE FURTHER...

CHANNA, WHO IS THIS? HIS HEAD IS WHITE. HE SEEMS VERY WEAK. HIS SKIN IS WRINKLED.

HE IS AN OLD MAN, MASTER! HE IS BENT WITH AGE.

DOES EVERYONE GET OLD, CHANNA?

YES, MY LORD! EVERYONE HAS TO GROW OLD.

WILL MY VASHODHARA ALSO GROW OLD? WILL MY STRENGTH GO AWAY WITH YEARS?

ON ANOTHER DAY...

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THIS MAN?

HE IS ILL, MY LORD! HE IS CRYING WITH PAIN.

IS DISEASE PECULIAR TO HIM?

NO, MY LORD! ANYONE MAY FALL ILL IN HIS LIFETIME.





EVEN  
I?

YES.  
MASTER,  
EVEN YOU.



STILL ANOTHER DAY.  
WHY ARE  
THEY CARRY-  
ING THAT  
MAN.  
CHANNA



HE IS  
DEAD,  
MY LORD!

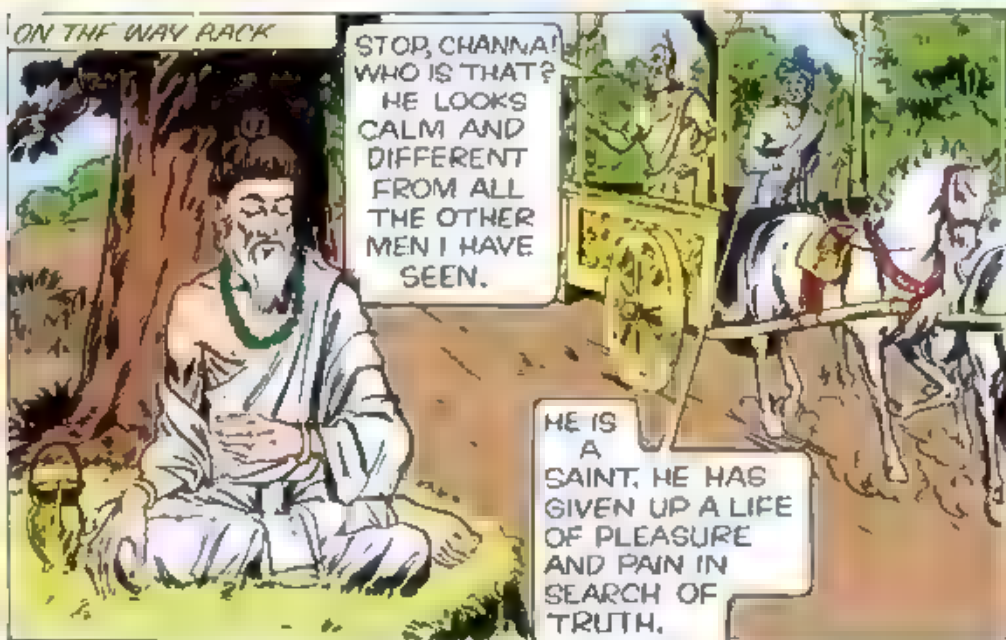


IS HE THE ONLY  
DEAD MAN? OR  
DO OTHERS ALSO  
DIE ?

EVERYONE  
WHO IS BORN,  
HAS TO DIE  
SOME DAY.



I FEEL  
SICK,  
CHANNA.  
LET US  
RETURN  
TO THE  
PALACE.



ON THE WAY BACK

STOP, CHANNA!  
WHO IS THAT?  
HE LOOKS  
CALM AND  
DIFFERENT  
FROM ALL  
THE OTHER  
MEN I HAVE  
SEEN.

HE IS  
A  
SAINT. HE HAS  
GIVEN UP A LIFE  
OF PLEASURE  
AND PAIN IN  
SEARCH OF  
TRUTH.



AT THE PALACE...

SIDDHARTHA!  
PLEASE TELL ME  
THE CAUSE OF  
YOUR  
UNHAPPINESS!

MOTHER, I  
HAVE LEARNT  
THAT ALL THINGS  
ALIVE AND  
BEAUTIFUL KEEP  
CHANGING. MEN  
GROW OLD. MEN  
FALL ILL AND  
DIE. I FEEL UN-  
HAPPY WHEN I  
THINK OF THESE  
THINGS.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT,  
HE MADE THE DECISION.

I MUST FIND  
A WAY TO END  
SORROW. I WILL  
GO IN SEARCH  
OF TRUTH,  
LIKE THAT  
SAINT.

CHANNA GET MY  
HORSE READY!

I WISH  
TO  
RIDE  
OUT.

YES,  
MASTER!

BEFORE LEAVING, THE PRINCE RETURNED TO THE BEDROOM OF  
HIS WIFE, YASHODHARA  
AND THE CHILD, RAHULA,  
WERE FAST ASLEEP.

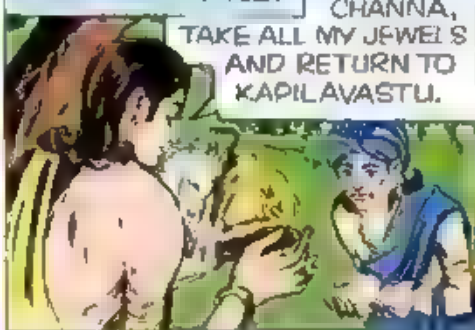
I CAN'T KISS RAHULA  
GOODBYE, THAT  
WILL AWAKEN  
YASHODHARA.  
I MUST GO.



SIDDHARTHA MOUNTED HIS HORSE  
AND RODE OUT, ACCOMPANIED ONLY  
BY CHANNA.

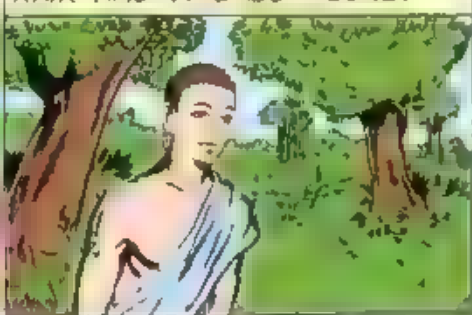


ONCE THEY WERE OUTSIDE THE  
CITY, SIDDHARTHA GOT DOWN  
FROM THE HORSE.



CHANNA,  
TAKE ALL MY JEWELS  
AND RETURN TO  
KAPILAVASTU.

HE THEN CUT OFF HIS LONG  
HAIR AND WALKED ALONE.



LATER HE SAW A BEGGAR.

HALT, MY GOOD MAN! TAKE



MY  
CLOTHES.  
AND  
GIVE ME  
YOURS.

WITH  
PLEA-  
SURE,  
MASTER.

SOON HE REACHED RAJAGRHA, THE CAPITAL OF MAGADHA. HE  
WENT FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE SILENTLY WAITING TILL THE PEOPLE  
OFFERED HIM FOOD. KING BIMBISARA OBSERVED HIM FROM HIS  
PALACE.

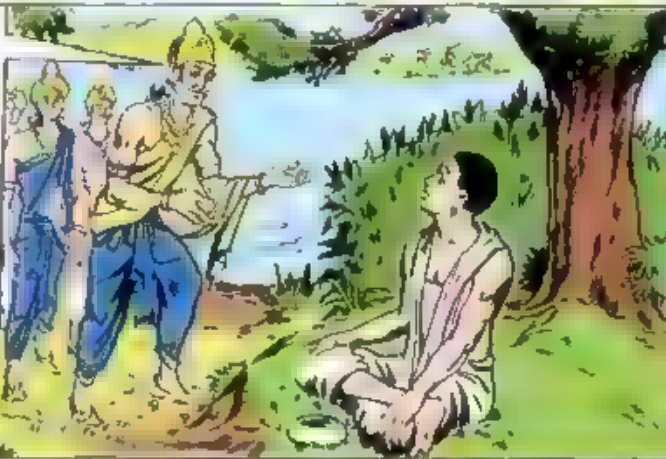


LOOK AT THAT  
SAINT HE LOOKS SO  
HANDSOME. FIND  
OUT WHO HE IS.



AS SOON AS THE MESSENGERS BROUGHT NEWS ABOUT SIDDHARTHA, KING BUMBISARA WENT TO MEET HIM.

YOU SEEM TO BE -  
LONG TO A NOBLE  
FAMILY. YOUR HAND  
SHOULD NOT HOLD  
A BEGGING BOWL,  
BUT THE REINS OF  
AN EMPIRE. I WILL  
GIVE YOU A HIGH  
POSITION IN MY  
KINGDOM. COME.



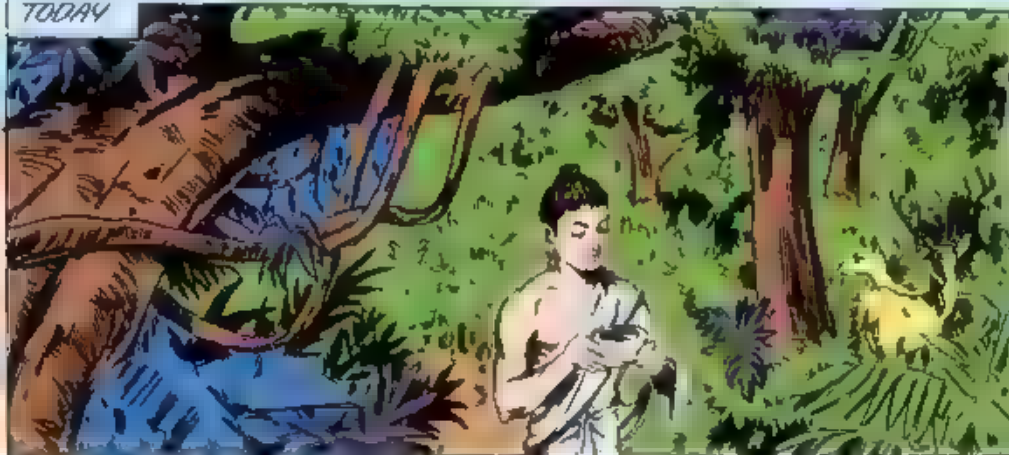
O KING, YOU ARE  
KIND. BUT I CANNOT  
ACCEPT YOUR  
INVITATION.  
I FEEL THAT  
LIFE IS FULL  
OF SORROW.  
I WISH TO  
FIND A WAY TO  
END ALL SORROW.



IF THAT IS YOUR  
WISH, I PRAY  
THAT YOU  
FIND IT  
PLEASE COME  
AND TEACH  
ME WHEN  
YOU HAVE  
FOUND THE  
SOLUTION.

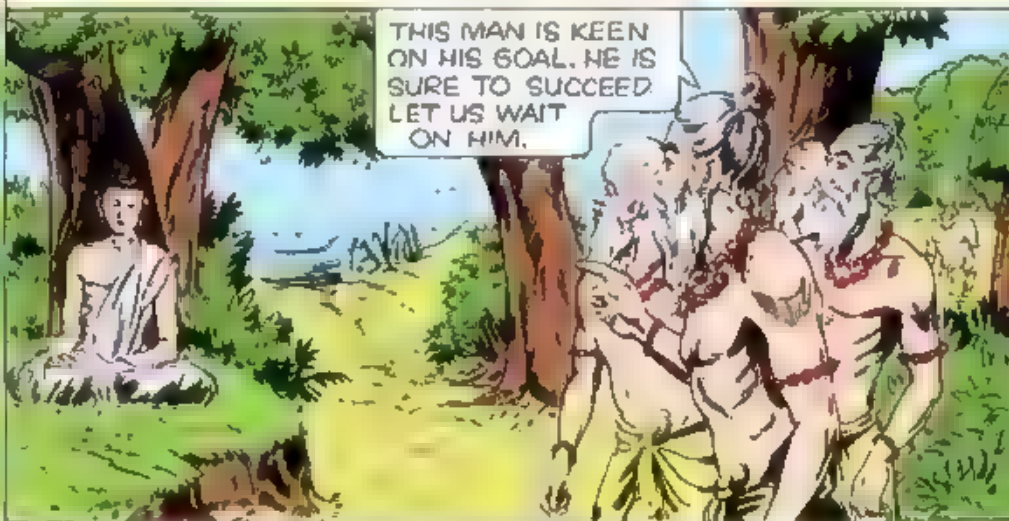


FROM RAJAGRHA, SIDDHARTHA WENT IN SEARCH OF THE GREAT  
SAGES OF THOSE DAYS. NOT SATISFIED WITH THEIR TEACHINGS,  
HE ENTERED THE THICK JUNGLES OF URUBILVA, NEAR GAYA OF  
TODAY



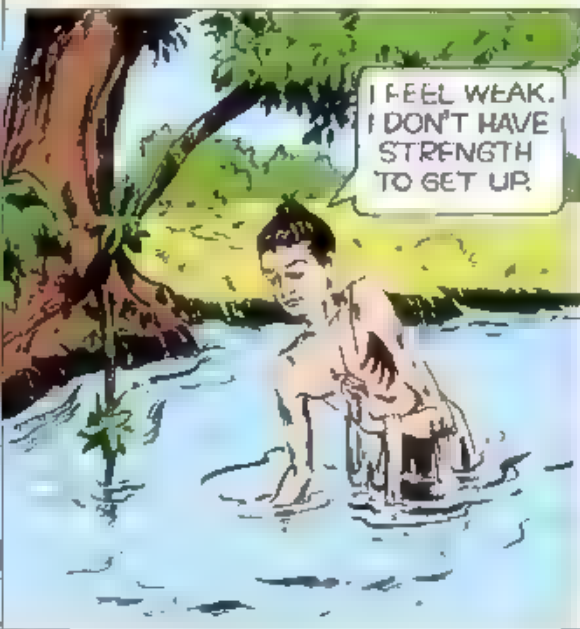


THERE WERE FIVE HERMITS IN THE JUNGLES OF URUBILVA.



THIS MAN IS KEEN  
ON HIS GOAL. HE IS  
SURE TO SUCCEED.  
LET US WAIT  
ON HIM.

SIDDHARTHA DRANK ONLY WATER  
AND ATE ONLY FRUITS AND HERBS.  
HE SLEPT ON THE HARD GROUND.  
AFTER SOME TIME HE STARTED EATING  
ONLY ONE HEMP GRAIN EVERY DAY.  
THIS MADE HIM VERY WEAK. ONE  
DAY, WHEN HE HAD GONE TO  
BATHE IN THE RIVER...



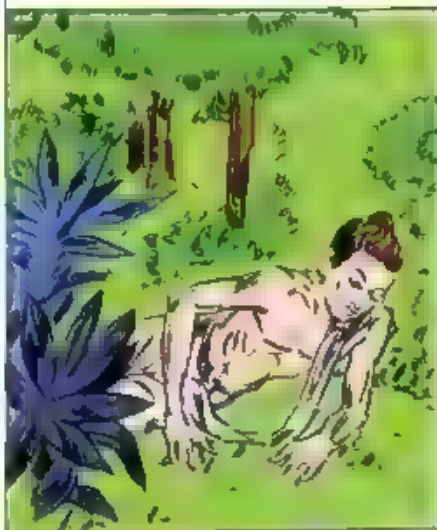
I FEEL WEAK.  
I DON'T HAVE  
STRENGTH  
TO GET UP.

HE CAUGHT HOLD OF A  
LOW BRANCH OF A TREE  
AND RAISED HIMSELF  
WITH ITS SUPPORT.



BUT AS HE BEGAN TO WALK AWAY FROM THE BANK, HE FELT WEAK AND FELL DOWN.

SLOWLY HE GOT UP.



NEXT DAY, AS HE SAT BENEATH A BANIAN TREE, SWATA, DAUGHTER OF A HERLUSMAN, CAME TO THAT SPOT. SHE OFFERED FOOD TO BUDDHA.



THANK YOU FOR FEEDING ME.



LATER...

HOW IS IT THAT YOU HAVE STARTED EATING FOOD AGAIN?

I HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT STARVING DOES NOT HELP IN REACHING THE TRUTH.



THE FIVE ASCETICS WERE DISAPPOINTED.

HE DOES NOT DESERVE OUR RESPECT.

YES, HE WANTS THE PLEASURES OF LIFE.





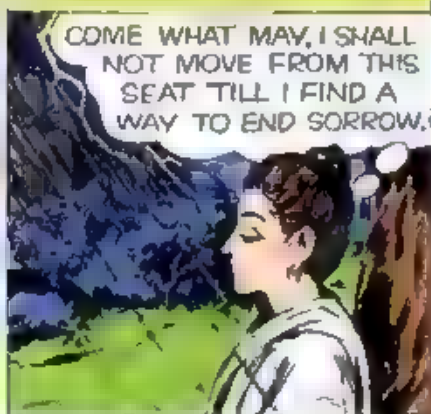
SIDDHARTHA NOW LIVED A  
LOVELY LIFE.



HE MOVED TOWARDS A BODHI  
TREE AND SAT BENEATH IT.



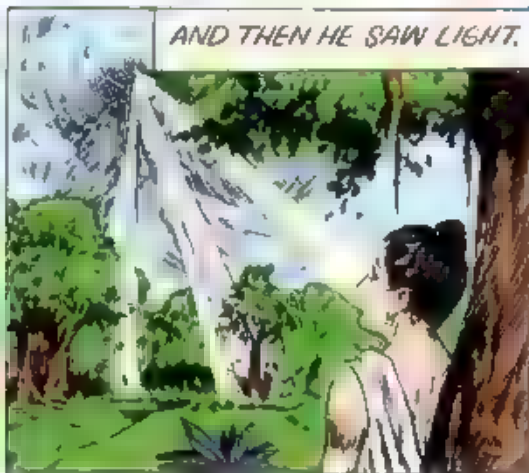
HEAT AND COLD, HUNGER AND  
THIRST TROUBLED HIM. RAIN  
LASHED ON HIM.



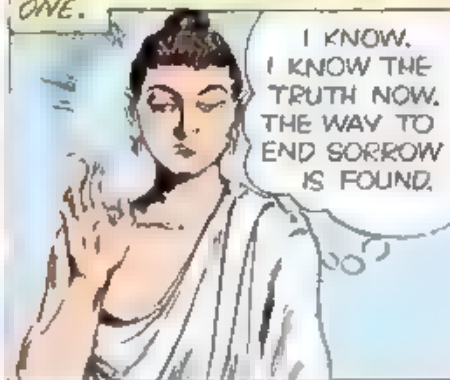
VISIONS OF THE LIFE OF PLEASURE  
FLOATED BEFORE HIS EYES BUT  
NOTHING COULD TEMPT HIM.



AND THEN HE SAW LIGHT.



SIDDHARTHA BECAME THE  
BUDDHA, THE ENLIGHTENED  
ONE.



HE SPENT SEVEN WEEKS UNDER THE TREE ENJOYING HIS STATE OF PERFECT HAPPINESS. THEN HE WENT OUT INTO THE WORLD TO TEACH OTHERS. FIRST, HE WENT TO BANARAS. IN SEARCH OF THE FIVE ASCETICS, WHO WERE WITH HIM IN URUBILVA. HE FOUND THEM IN DEER PARK.



HERE COMES SIDDHARTHA. HE RETURNED TO A LIFE OF EASE. LET US NOT TALK TO HIM.

BUT AS SOON AS HE CAME NEAR, THEY GOT UP AND RECEIVED HIM WITH RESPECT.



I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU WHAT I HAVE FOUND. LISTEN!

WHEN THEY HEARD THE BUDDHA, THEY BECAME HIS DISCIPLES. THE SANGHA THUS CAME INTO BEING.

THERE IS GREAT SORROW IN THIS WORLD. THIS SORROW IS BECAUSE OF DESIRE. IF YOU CAN FREE YOURSELF FROM DESIRE, YOU WILL BE FREE FROM SORROW. I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY TO REMOVE SORROW FROM THE MIND.



AFTER THAT, HE RETURNED TO URUBILVA AND WENT TO THE HOUSE OF KASSHYAPA, A GREAT BRAHMAN.



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO SPEND A NIGHT HERE.





YOU  
ARE  
WELCOME.  
PLEASE  
COME  
IN.

KASSHYADA WAS A  
WORSHIPPER OF AGNI,  
THE GOD OF FIRE



MAY I  
STAY IN  
THE  
ROOM,  
WHERE YOU  
KEEP  
THE  
SACRED  
FIRE?



HAVEN'T YOU  
HEARD THAT THE  
SACRED FIRE IS  
GUARDED BY A  
SERPENT AT  
NIGHT? THE  
SERPENT WILL  
BITE YOU IF  
YOU GO NEAR  
THE FIRE.

I AM NOT AFRAID.  
PLEASE ALLOW ME  
TO SPEND THE  
NIGHT THERE.

AT LAST KASSHYADA AGREED.  
BUDDHA SAT SILENTLY  
BEFORE THE FIRE. KASSHYADA  
WENT TO SLEEP OUTSIDE.



EARLY NEXT MORNING -

LET ME GO AND  
LOOK FOR HIM.  
HE MUST BE  
DEAD. POOR  
MAN!



WHEN HE WENT INSIDE THE ROOM, HE  
SAW BUDDHA SITTING PEACEFULLY. THE  
LIGHT FROM THE FIRE SHONE ON HIS  
FACE

I ACCEPT YOU  
AS MY MASTER.  
TEACH ME.

BUDDHA TAUGHT KASSHYAPA AND  
MANY OTHERS IN URUBILVA.

ONE DAY-

MASTER,  
I HAVE HEARD

THAT KING BIMBISARA  
WILL BE CELEBRATING A  
GREAT VAGNA.

LET US GO  
TO RAJAGRIHA.

ON THEIR WAY TO RAJAGRIHA, THEY SAW A HERD OF SHEEP. THERE  
WAS A LAME LAMB. BUDDHA LIFTED IT IN HIS ARMS.

POOR THING,  
IT MUST HAVE BEEN  
SUFFERING A  
LOT OF PAIN.





GOOD MAN,  
WHERE ARE  
YOU GOING?

I AM GOING TO RAJA-  
GRHA. THESE SHEEP  
BELONG TO THE  
KING. THEY ARE  
GOING TO BE SACRI-  
FICED IN THE  
VAGNA - IN  
THE SACRED  
FIRE.

BIMBISARA HEARD THAT BUDDHA  
WAS ON HIS WAY TO RAJAGRHA,  
HE WENT FORWARD WITH  
HIS MINISTERS  
TO MEET HIM.



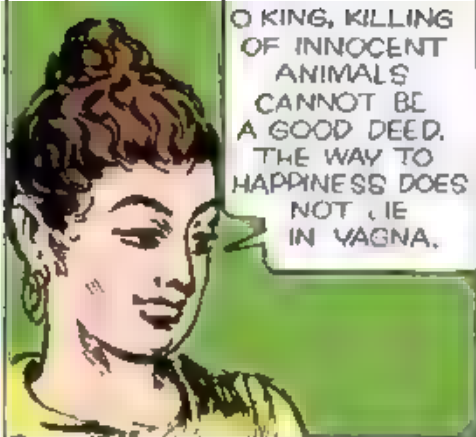
HE IS IN THE  
COMPANY OF  
URUBILVA  
KASSHYAPA. DOES  
THAT MEAN  
BUDDHA IS  
HIS DISCIPLE?

WHEN THEY CAME NEAR, BUDDHA GENTLY PLACED THE LANIS  
DOWN.

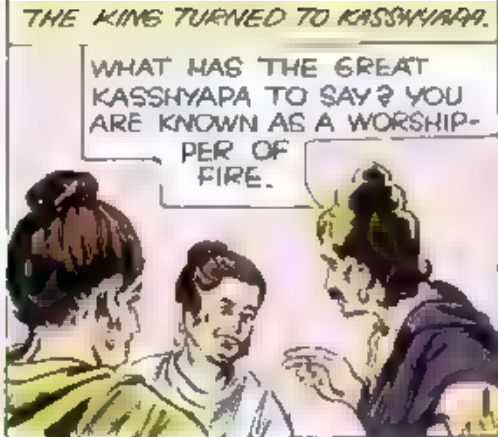
YOU HAD EXPRESSED  
THE WISH  
TO SEE ME  
AFTER I HAD  
FOUND THE WAY.  
HERE I AM.



HOLY ONE! I AM  
ABOUT TO BEGIN  
A VAGNA. GREAT  
KASSHYAPA  
AND YOU ARE  
ALSO WELCOME  
TO TAKE  
PART IN IT.



O KING, KILLING  
OF INNOCENT  
ANIMALS  
CANNOT BE  
A GOOD DEED.  
THE WAY TO  
HAPPINESS DOES  
NOT LIE  
IN VAGNA.



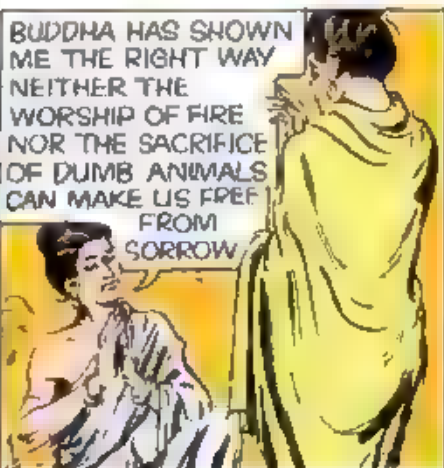
WHAT HAS THE GREAT  
KASSHYAPA TO SAY? YOU  
ARE KNOWN AS A WORSHIP-  
PER OF  
FIRE.

KASSHYAPA BOWED TO BUDDHA.

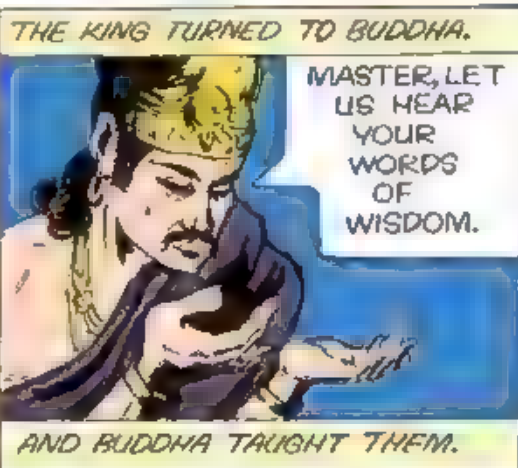


I AM A  
DISCIPLE  
OF  
BUDDHA.

I SEE BUDDHA  
IS THE TEACHER  
DON'T YOU  
ALSO BELIEVE  
IN VAGNA?



BUDDHA HAS SHOWN  
ME THE RIGHT WAY  
NEITHER THE  
WORSHIP OF FIRE  
NOR THE SACRIFICE  
OF DUMB ANIMALS  
CAN MAKE US FREE  
FROM  
SORROW



THE KING TURNED TO BUDDHA.

MASTER, LET  
US HEAR  
YOUR  
WORDS  
OF  
WISDOM.

AND BUDDHA TAUGHT THEM.

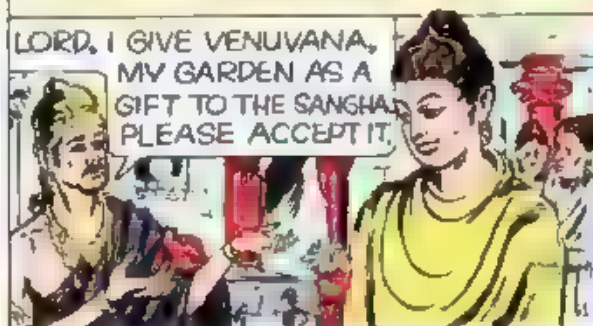


LORD, I HAVE GIVEN  
UP THE IDEA OF  
PERFORMING YAGNA.  
I TAKE REFUGE  
IN BUDDHA.



NEXT DAY, THE KING INVITED BUDDHA  
AND HIS DISCIPLES FOR A MEAL AT HIS  
PALACE. AFTER THE MEAL WAS OVER.

LORD, I GIVE VENUVANA,  
MY GARDEN AS A  
GIFT TO THE SANGHA.  
PLEASE ACCEPT IT.



ONE DAY, KRISHNA GOTAMI BROUGHT BEFORE BUDDHA HER  
DEAD CHILD.

MASTER, PLEASE BRING  
IT BACK TO LIFE. IT IS MY  
ONLY CHILD.



CONTROL YOUR GRIEF.  
DO AS I SAY. GET ME  
A FEW MUSTARD  
SEEDS FROM ANY  
HOUSE, WHERE NO  
DEATH HAS TAKEN  
PLACE. AND I  
WILL BRING  
BACK TO LIFE  
YOUR CHILD.

FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE KRISHNA GOTAMI WENT.

I LOST  
MY HUSBAND  
LAST YEAR!

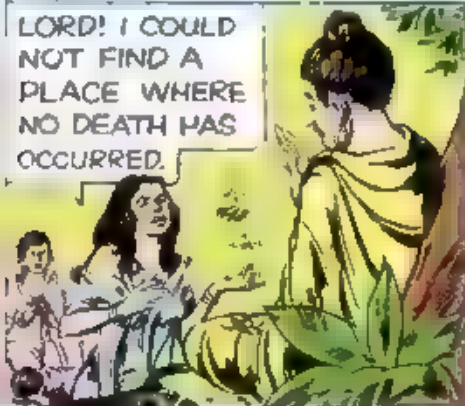
I LOST MY TWO  
CHILDREN.

MY  
MOTHER  
DIED YESTERDAY.



DISAPPOINTED KIMSHA GOTAMII  
CAME BACK TO BUDDHA.

LORD! I COULD  
NOT FIND A  
PLACE WHERE  
NO DEATH HAS  
OCCURRED.



MY CHILD ALL THAT IS BORN,  
MUST DIE ONE DAY. THERE IS  
ULTIMATELY NOTHING BUT  
SORROW IN LIFE.  
IT IS FREEDOM  
FROM DESIRE  
THAT FREES US  
FROM SORROW.



AFTER A FEW YEARS, AT BUDDHODANA'S COURT...

LORD! OUR PRINCE HAS BECOME  
FAMOUS. MANY HAVE BECOME  
HIS DISCIPLES. THEY ARE  
SPREADING HIS TEACHINGS



GO TO SIDDHARTHA  
AND TELL HIM  
THAT I AM GROW-  
ING OLD AND WISH  
TO SEE HIM BEFORE  
I DIE.



WHEN BUDDHA REACHED KAPILAVASTU...



WELCOME MY  
SON! I WISH YOU  
WOULD BECOME  
KING.

I AM SORRY. I HAVE  
CHOSEN THE PATH  
OF PEACE.



THE KING ARRANGED FOR BUDDHA'S STAY IN A GROVE NEARBY.



NEXT MORNING

LORD, THE PRINCE IS GOING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE TO RECEIVE ALMS IN THE CITY!!

QUICK. LEAD ME TO HIM.



MY SON, MUST YOU BEG?

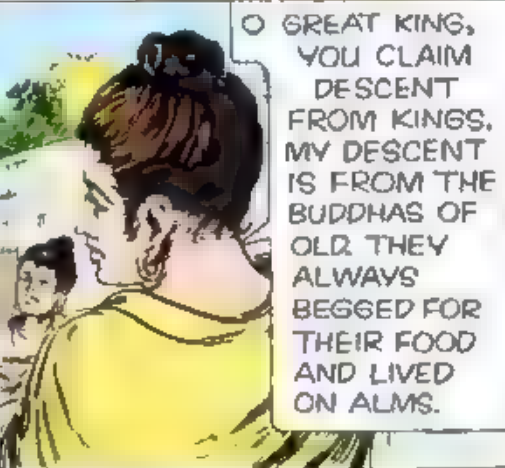
BUT IT IS OUR CUSTOM.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU ARE DESCENDED FROM KINGS.



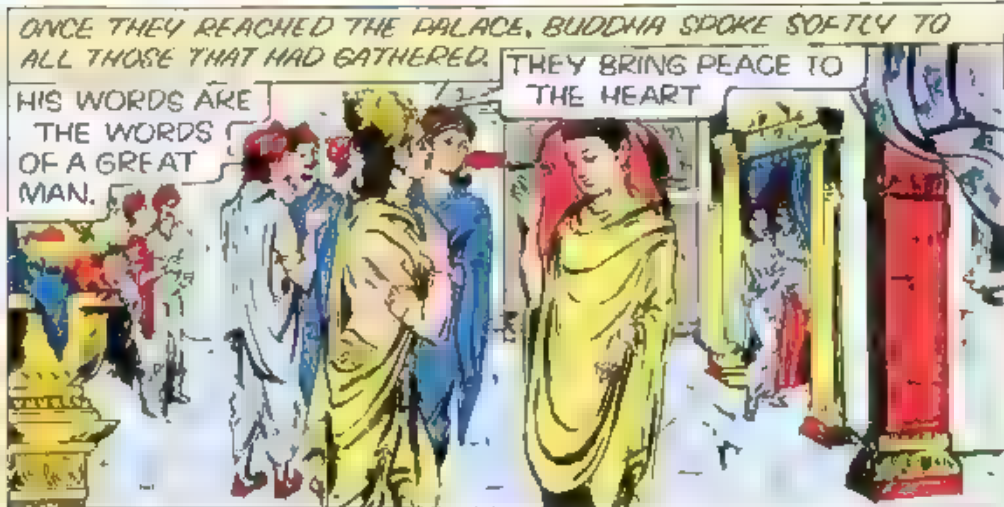
O GREAT KING, YOU CLAIM DESCENT FROM KINGS. MY DESCENT IS FROM THE BUDDHAS OF OLD. THEY ALWAYS BEGGED FOR THEIR FOOD AND LIVED ON ALMS.



ONCE THEY REACHED THE PALACE, BUDDHA SPOKE SOFTLY TO ALL THOSE THAT HAD GATHERED.

HIS WORDS ARE THE WORDS OF A GREAT MAN.

THEY BRING PEACE TO THE HEART



*BUDDHA NOTICED THAT YASHODHARA WAS NOT PRESENT.*

WHERE IS  
YASHODHARA?

SHE HAS  
REFUSED  
TO COME.



SHE HAS BEEN VERY UN-  
HAPPY EVER SINCE YOU  
LEFT. SHE HAS CUT HER  
HAIR, WEARS SIMPLE  
CLOTHES AND EATS  
SPARINGLY JUST  
AS YOU DID.



*WITH TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES, BUDDHA  
WENT TO YASHODHARA'S CHAMBER.*



I MUST TRY  
TO HEAL  
THE SORROW  
IN HER  
HEART.

WHEN YASHODHARA  
SAW BUDDHA, SHE FELL  
AT HIS FEET AND  
WEPT




THEN REMEMBERING THAT  
OTHERS WERE PRESENT,  
SHE GOT UP AND SAT AT A  
LITTLE DISTANCE.



*BUDDHA SPOKE WORDS OF COMFORT.*



A WEEK AFTER BUDDHA CAME TO KAPILAVASTU



RAHULA, DO YOU SEE THE  
MAN SITTING THERE IN  
THE CENTRE? HE IS YOUR FATHER.  
GO TO HIM AND ASK FOR YOUR  
SHARE OF HIS PROPERTY

RAHULA WENT TO BUDDHA

FATHER! MY  
MOTHER SENT ME  
TO ASK YOU FOR  
MY SHARE OF  
YOUR PROPERTY.

BUDDHA TURNED TO SARI-  
PUTRA, HIS DISCIPLE.

MY SON ASKS FOR HIS  
INHERITANCE. WELL THEN,  
TAKE HIM IN THE SANGHA.

AFTER RAHULA JOINED THE SANGHA, MANY YOUNG MEN OF THE  
ROYAL FAMILY ALSO JOINED. AMONGST THEM WAS  
DEVADATTA. HE ALSO MOVED ABOUT WITH BUDDHA.  
ONE DAY...

MASTER,  
YOU SHOULD  
REST.  
I SHALL  
LEAD  
THE  
SANGHA.

NO, DEVA-  
DATTA THE  
SANGHA  
STILL  
NEEDS MY  
GUIDANCE.

DEVADATTA FELT JEALOUS OF BUDDHA. HE WENT TO RAJASRIHA AND MET AJATASATRU, SON OF KING BIMBISARA.

PRINCE AJATASATRU!  
HOW LONG CAN YOU  
WAIT TO BECOME  
A KING?  
PUT YOUR  
FATHER  
IN PRISON  
AND BE A  
KING  
YOURSELF.

IT IS A GOOD IDEA,  
DEVADATTA. I  
WILL DO AS  
YOU SAY.

AJATASATRU DID AS DEVA-  
DATTA ADVISED HIM.

IT IS NICE TO  
BE A KING.  
THANK YOU,  
DEVADATTA!  
IF YOU WANT  
MY HELP IN  
ANYTHING,  
ASK FOR IT

I NEED  
YOUR HELP,  
KING  
AJATASATRU.  
HELP ME  
KILL BUDDHA.  
I HATE  
HIM.



DEVADATTA TRIED MANY WAYS  
TO KILL BUDDHA.



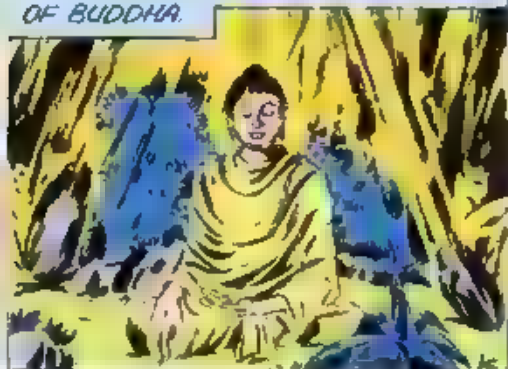
LOOK OUT!  
A BIG STONE  
IS ROLLING  
DOWN  
TOWARDS  
BUDDHA

SIT WHERE  
YOU ARE. NO  
HARM WILL  
COME TO ME.



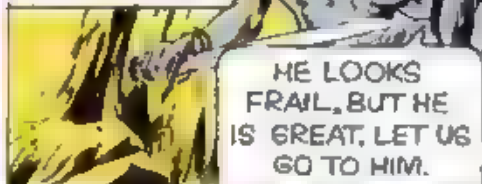


THE ROCK SPLIT INTO TWO AND A PIECE FELL ON EITHER SIDE OF BUDDHA.



MANY OF DEVADATTA'S FOLLOWERS CAME TO JOIN THE SANGHA OF BUDDHA.

THE ROCK DID NOT KILL HIM.



HE LOOKS FRAIL, BUT HE IS GREAT, LET US GO TO HIM.

I HEAR, MANY OF MY FOLLOWERS HAVE JOINED HIS SANGHA. WHY NOT SET AN ELEPHANT ON HIM?



YET ANOTHER ORDER FROM AJATA-SATRU.

INTOXICATE THE ELEPHANT NALAGIRI, AND THEN LET HIM LOOSE IN THE PATH OF BUDDHA.



RUN, RUN, NALAGIRI IS FREE. HE HAS RUINED HALF THE TOWN ALREADY. TWENTY MEN HAVE BEEN KILLED.



MASTER, LET US HIDE. A WILD ELEPHANT IS COMING THIS WAY.

NO, HE WON'T HARM US.



NALAGIRI CAME THUMPING ALONGS  
AND RUSHED TOWARDS BUDDHA  
IN A MAD FURY.



BUDDHA SMILED AND RAISED  
HIS HAND. THE ELEPHANT,



AT ONCE CALMED,  
KNELT AT HIS FEET.

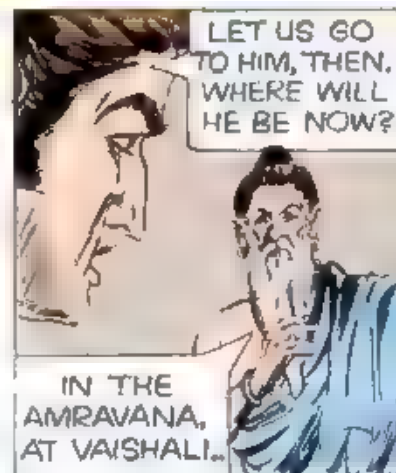


AJATASATRU WAS AN UNHAPPY MAN.  
HE FELL ILL OFTEN. JIVAKA WAS HIS  
PHYSICIAN.



JIVAKA,  
WHY DO  
I SUFFER?

YOUR  
AILMENT  
IS NOT  
PHYSICAL  
BUT  
SPIRITUAL  
ONLY  
BUDDHA  
CAN  
HELP  
YOU.



LET US GO  
TO HIM, THEN.  
WHERE WILL  
HE BE NOW?

IN THE  
AMRAVANA,  
AT VAISHALI.



WHICH BELONGS  
TO AMRAPALI,  
THE COURTESAN?



YES, MY LORD!  
AMRAPALI HAS GIFTED  
IT TO BUDDHA.

WHEN AJATASATRU REACH  
ED AMRAVANA- HE IS

I HEARD  
NO SOUND.  
WHERE IS  
BUDDHA?

HERE WITH  
OVER TWELVE  
HUNDRED  
DISCIPLES





AJATASATRU'S MIND  
TROUBLED HIM.

TWELVE HUNDRED  
PEOPLE! NOT A  
SOUND OF HUMAN  
HABITATION HERE!!  
HAVE YOU BROUGHT  
ME HERE TO BE  
KILLED? IS IT A  
PLOT OF YOURS?

MY LORD! TRUST  
ME. LET US GO  
AHEAD.

AND AJATASATRU WAS SPELL-BOUND WHEN HE SAW THE  
ASSEMBLY OF MEN LISTENING QUIETLY TO THE GREAT TEACHER.

ALL SUFFERING AND PAIN, FEAR  
AND HATRED, COME FROM DESIRE.  
THE MAN WHO IS FREE FROM ALL  
DESIRE, NEED NOT WORRY. WHOM  
HAS HE TO  
FEAR?

HOW  
SOOTHING!

AJATASATRU BECAME A  
DISCIPLE OF BUDDHA.

NOT MUCH LATER, DEVADATTA ALSO REPENTED. ONE DAY, HE  
SAID TO HIS FOLLOWERS-

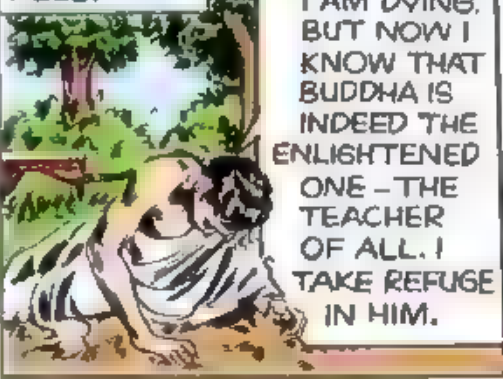
CHILDREN,  
TAKE ME TO BUDDHA.  
HE ALONE CAN  
BRING PEACE TO  
MY TROUBLED MIND.

THE MEN CARRYING DEVADATTA KEPT DOWNY THE LITTER AND WENT TO REFRESH THEMSELVES.



WHERE HAVE MY MEN GONE? I AM IN A HURRY TO MEET BUDDHA.

BEFORE HE COULD REACH BUDDHA, HE TOTTERED AND FELL.



I AM DYING, BUT NOW I KNOW THAT BUDDHA IS INDEED THE ENLIGHTENED ONE - THE TEACHER OF ALL. I TAKE REFUGE IN HIM.



BUDDHAM  
SARANAM  
GACCHAMI

SANGHAM  
SARANAM  
GACCHAMI

DHAMMAM  
SARANAM  
GACCHAMI

BUDDHA LIVED TO A RIPE OLD AGE. MILLIONS TOOK REFUGE IN HIM AND IN HIS TEACHINGS. PEOPLE, WHO SPOKE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND BELONGED TO DISTANT LANDS BECAME HIS FOLLOWERS.



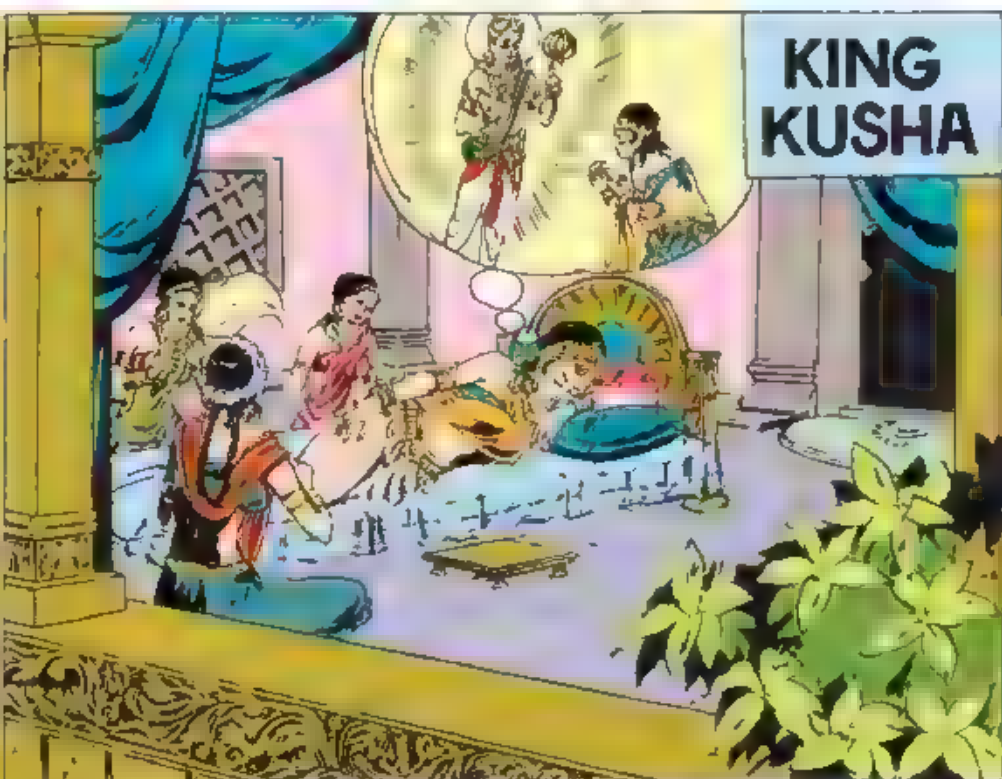


# KING KUSHA

A JATAKA STORY ABOUT INNER BEAUTY



# KING KUSHA



*SHEELAVATI, THE CHIEF QUEEN OF THE HEIRLESS KING OKKAKA OF KUSHAYATI, WAS OFFERED A BOON BY INDRA, KING OF THE GODS.*



YOU SHALL HAVE TWO SONS. ONE WISE BUT UGLY, THE OTHER HANDSOME BUT A FOOL. WHICH WILL YOU HAVE FIRST?

THE WISE ONE, MY LORD.

*IN DUE COURSE, SHEELAVATI GAVE BIRTH TO A SON.*

HE SHALL BE CALLED KUSHA.





TWO YEARS LATER, SHE GAVE BIRTH  
TO THE SECOND SON - JAYAMPATI.

WHAT A  
BEAUTIFUL  
BABY!

EVEN AS A CHILD, KUSHA WAS  
CONSCIOUS OF HIS APPEARANCE.

I MUST EXCEL  
IN ALL THE ARTS  
TO MAKE UP FOR  
MY UGLY  
LOOKS.

IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, KUSHA MASTERED THE  
ARTS OF MUSIC, PAINTING AND SCULPTURE ONE DAY -

SHEELAVATI, KUSHA  
IS ALMOST SIXTEEN  
YEARS OLD. I WOULD  
LIKE TO PLACE HIM  
ON THE THRONE  
WHILE I AM YET  
ALIVE BUT BEFORE  
I DO, I'D LIKE TO  
SEE HIM  
MARRIED.

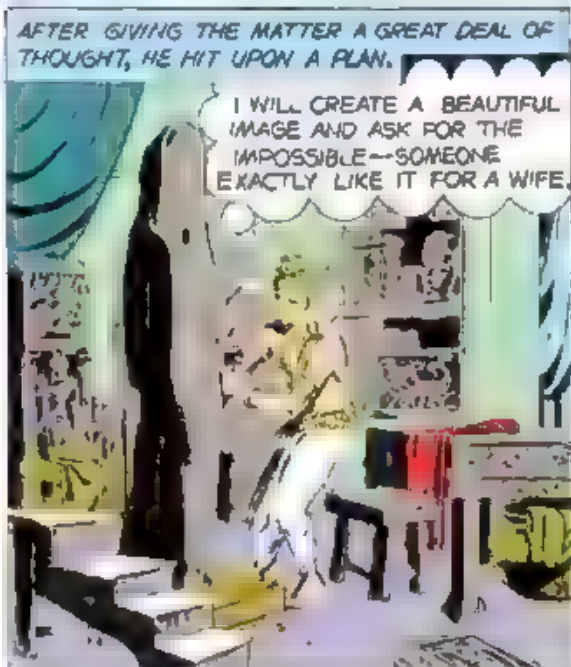
I TOO WOULD  
LOVE TO HAVE A  
DAUGHTER IN  
THE PALACE!

WHEN KUSHA LEARNT OF HIS PARENTS' WISHES HE WAS SAD.

WOULD ANY  
PRINCESS MARRY  
AN UGLY FELLOW  
LIKE ME?



BUT I CANNOT  
TELL MY PARENTS  
THIS. IT WOULD  
HURT THEM. I  
MUST FIND A  
WAY OUT.



AFTER GIVING THE MATTER A GREAT DEAL OF  
THOUGHT, HE HIT UPON A PLAN.

I WILL CREATE A BEAUTIFUL  
IMAGE AND ASK FOR THE  
IMPOSSIBLE--SOMEONE  
EXACTLY LIKE IT FOR A WIFE.

WHEN THE IMAGE WAS COMPLETED,  
KUSHA COULD NOT HELP ADMIRING  
HIS OWN WORK.



THEY WILL  
NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND  
A PRINCESS HALF  
AS BEAUTIFUL  
AS YOU!

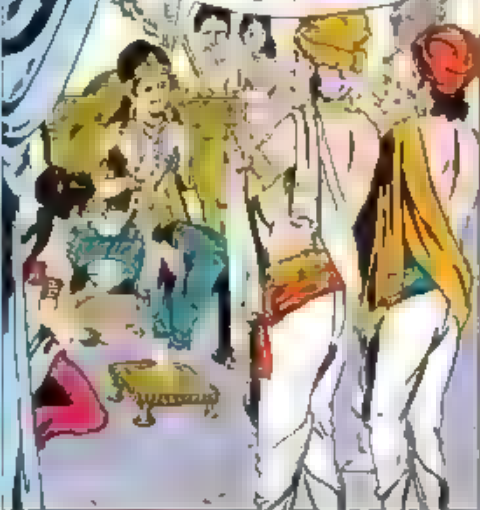
HE THEN BROUGHT HIS MOTHER TO SEE IT.



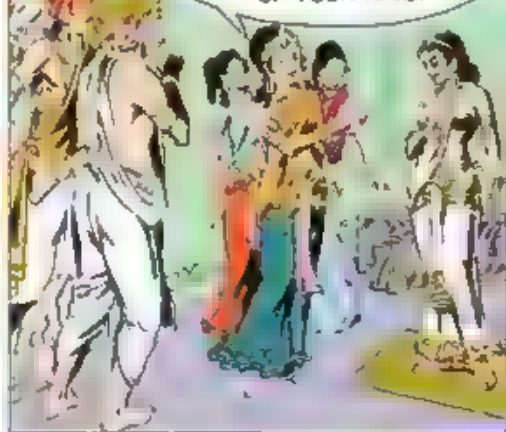
IF YOU CAN FIND  
ME A PRINCESS  
AS BEAUTIFUL AS  
THIS, I'LL  
MARRY HER.



PRINCE KUSHA, THE GIFT OF  
INDRA, IS HIGHLY TALENTED.  
HE WILL HAVE NONE BUT A  
PRINCESS WORTHY  
OF HIM.



TAKE THIS FIGURE HE HAS  
CREATED AND TOUR THE  
COUNTRY EXHIBITING IT. WHEN  
YOU COME ACROSS ITS LIVING  
LIKENESS, PRESENT THE IMAGE  
TO HER FATHER AND REQUEST  
HIM FOR HER HAND ON BEHALF  
OF YOUR KING.



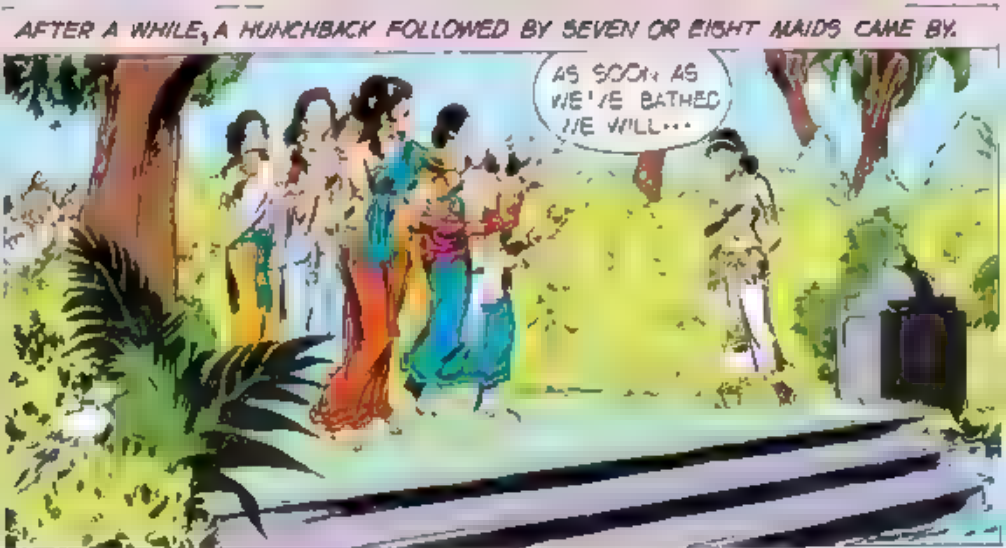
THE COUNCILLORS TRAVELLED FROM  
KINGDOM TO KINGDOM, EXHIBITING  
THE IMAGE, TILL AT LAST THEY ARRIVED  
AT SAGALA, THE CAPITAL OF THE  
KINGDOM OF MADGA.



AS USUAL, THEY PLACED THE IMAGE AT A  
CONSPICUOUS SPOT. THEN—

NOW LET US STAND AWAY  
FROM IT AND OVERHEAR  
THE COMMENTS OF  
THOSE WHO PASS BY.







MADAM! WHAT'S  
THE MATTER? YOUR  
HAND! IT'S BRUISED  
AND BROKEN!



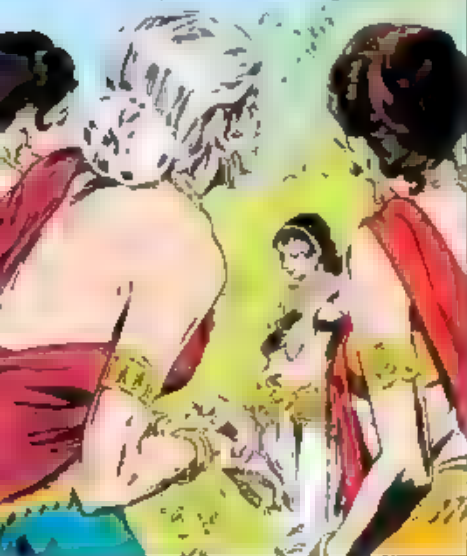
BUT THE OLD HUNCHBACK SOON RECOVERED  
HER COMPOSURE.

HA! HA! HA! WHAT A FOOL  
I'VE BEEN. I MISTOOK THIS  
CHEAP IMAGE TO BE  
THE PRINCESS.

HA! HA! HOW  
COULD YOU?



I HAVE HURT MY  
HANDS FOR INSUL-  
TING HER. WHAT IS  
THIS WORTHLESS  
IMAGE COMPARED  
TO MY DARLING  
PRABHAVATI!



THE COUNCILLORS WERE OVERJOYED.

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?

WHAT I SAY. THIS  
IMAGE WOULD APPEAR  
UGLY BEFORE HER. AND  
I AM HER NURSE  
WHO SAYS SO.



THE DELIGHTED COUNCILLORS IMMEDIATELY SOUGHT AN AUDIENCE WITH PRABHAVATI'S FATHER.

WE GLADLY AGREE.  
WE WOULD BE  
HONOURED BY THE  
ALLIANCE.

YOUR MAJESTY, OUR KING, OKKAKA OF KUSHAVATI, IS ANXIOUS TO PLACE HIS SON, THE BRAVE PRINCE KUSHA, ON THE THRONE. WE REQUEST YOU ON HIS BEHALF FOR THE HAND OF PRINCESS PRABHAVATI.

BACK AT KUSHAVATI—

YOUR MAJESTY, WE HAVE FOUND HER—A PRINCESS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE IMAGE!

WHEN KING OKKAKA AND QUEEN SHEELAVATI HEARD THE WHOLE STORY—

LET US SET OUT FOR SAGALA AT ONCE WITH A LARGE RETINUE.

YES! LET US NOT WASTE A MOMENT.

WHEN THEY REACHED SAGALA, THEY WERE RECEIVED GRACIOUSLY BY THE KING, THE QUEEN, PRINCESS PRABHAVATI AND HER SEVEN YOUNGER SISTERS



LATER, WHEN PRABHAVATI CAME TO PAY HER RESPECTS TO SHEELAVATI —



SHOULD THIS DAZZLING BEAUTY SEE MY SON'S FACE, SHE WILL RUN AWAY FROM HIM THAT VERY MOMENT. YET I MUST NOT FAIL MY SON. LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO

WHEN PRABHAVATI HAD LEFT, SHEELAVATI SPOKE TO THE KING OF MADDA.



YOUR DAUGHTER IS WORTHY OF MY SON, BUT...

YES?





PRABHAVATI AGREED TO RESPECT THE TRADITION AND AFTER MUCH GIVING AND RECEIVING OF GIFTS, OKKAKA AND SHEELAVATI ESCORTED THEIR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, ALONG WITH HER NURSE AND A VAST RETINUE, TO KUSHAVATI.



BACK AT KUSHAVATI —

HAVE THE CITY DECORATED,  
RELEASE ALL PRISONERS,  
THE WEDDING AND  
THE CORONATION OF  
PRINCE KUSHA SHALL  
BE CELEBRATED  
TODAY!

NEITHER KUSHA NOR PRABHAVATI SAW EACH OTHER'S FACE, BUT—

HOW WELL HE  
PLAYS THE VEENA!  
HE MUST HAVE  
THE SENSITIVE  
FACE OF A  
MUSICIAN.

AH! I CAN ONLY  
IMAGINE HOW SHE  
LOOKS BY THINKING  
OF MY GOLDEN  
IMAGE.

A FEW DAYS AFTER THE WEDDING, KING KUSHA CAME TO SHEELAVATI.

MOTHER, PLEASE PERMIT  
ME TO LOOK AT MY WIFE  
BUT ONCE.

YOU WILL HAVE TO  
WAIT UNTIL SHE HAS  
CONCEIVED.



ALL RIGHT. GO TO THE  
ELEPHANT STALLS DISGUISED  
AS A KEEPER, I WILL  
BRING PRABHAVATI THERE.  
BUT SEE THAT YOU DO  
NOT MAKE YOURSELF  
KNOWN TO HER.



SHEELAVATI THEN WENT TO  
PRABHAVATI.



WHEN KUSHA SAW PRABHAVATI AS SHE WALKED  
BEHIND HIS MOTHER, HE WAS ENCHANTED.



DETERMINED TO FIND OUT, HE PICKED UP A HANDFUL OF DUNG AND FLUNG IT  
AT HER.





**PRABHAVATI WAS ENRAGED.**

HOW DARE YOU!  
YOU UGLY FELLOW.  
I WILL GET THE  
KING, MY HUSBAND,  
TO CUT OFF YOUR  
HANDS.

SHE IS A  
PRINCESS!



**AS SHEELAVATI PACIFIED HER AND  
HURRIED HER AWAY—**

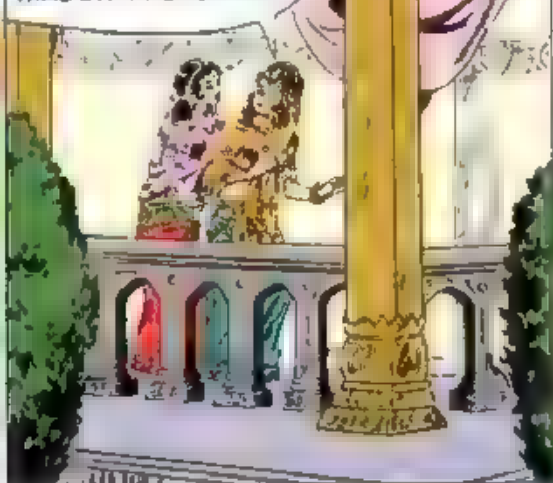
MOTHER, I MUST  
SEE MY HUSBAND'S  
FACE—JUST ONCE.

NO! PLEASE  
DON'T ASK FOR  
THAT. IT WOULD  
BE INAUSP  
CIOUS.



**BUT PRABHAVATI WENT ON PLEADING.  
AT LAST—**

WELL, TOMORROW MY  
SON WILL BE RIDING  
THROUGH THE CITY.  
YOU CAN OPEN YOUR  
WINDOW AND SEE HIM.



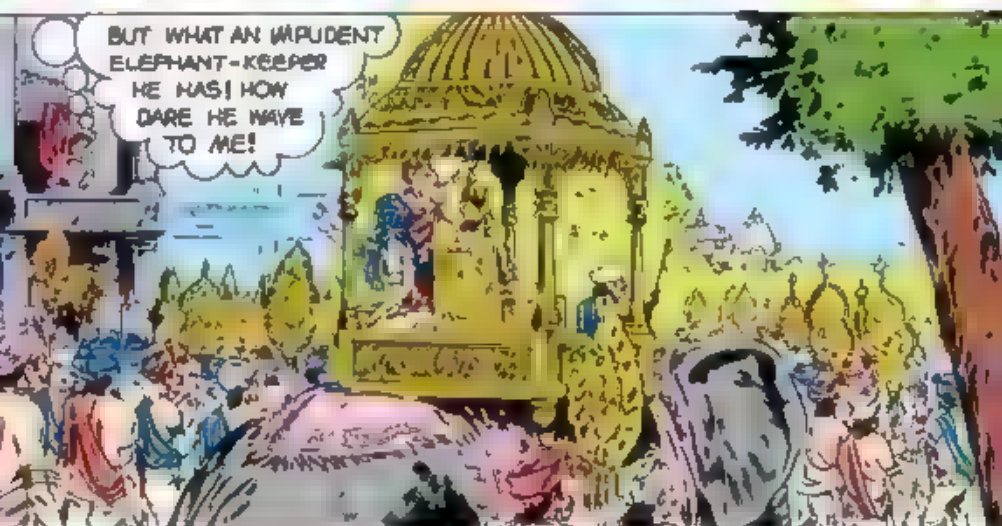
I WILL TELL KUSHA  
TO SEND JAYAMPATI  
IN A PROCESSION  
THROUGH THE  
STREETS. HE CAN  
WEAR KUSHA'S  
CLOTHES AND  
RIDE ON HIS  
ELEPHANT.



POOR KUSHA WAS NOT GOING TO MISS THE CHANCE OF SEEING HIS WIFE AGAIN.



THE NEXT DAY WHEN PRABHAVATI SAW JAYAMATI —



WHEN THE PROCESSION HAD PASSED BY, PRABHAVATI TURNED AWAY FROM THE WINDOW.

DID YOU SEE YOUR LORD?



DON'T BE MISLED BY LOOKS. THAT MAN IS CAPABLE AND THE KING MUST HAVE A CAPABLE MAN SITTING BEHIND HIM.



BUT PRABHAVATI WAS NOT CONVINCED.

NO MAN WOULD BE ALLOWED TO BEHAVE LIKE THAT HOWEVER EXCELLENT HIS SERVICES MIGHT BE. CAN IT BE THAT HE IS KING KUSHA AND THEY DO NOT LET ME SEE HIM BECAUSE HE IS SO UGLY?



SHE TURNED TO HER NURSE.

RUN, MY DEAR. FIND OUT WHO WAS THE KING—THE MAN IN FRONT OR THE ONE BEHIND.

HOW AM I TO FIND OUT?



THE KING WILL BE THE FIRST TO ALIGHT FROM THE ELEPHANT GO. DON'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME.



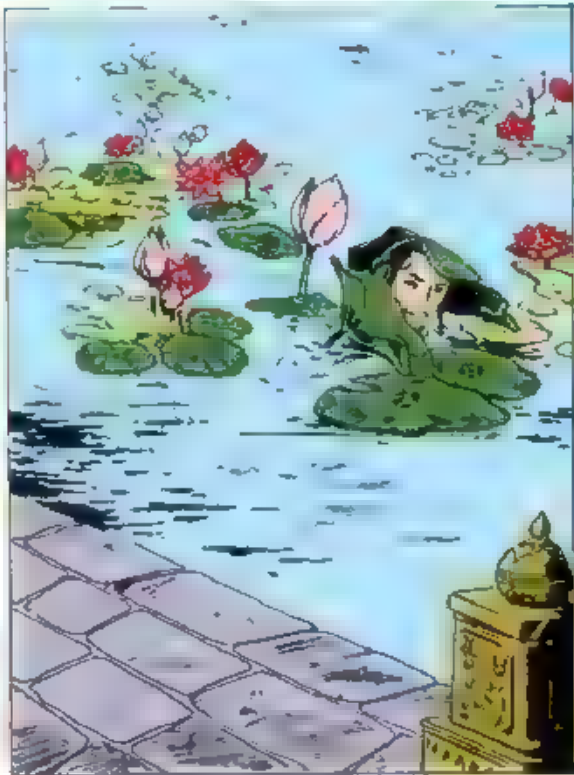
WHEN THE NURSE SAW KUSHA ALIGHT FIRST, SHE WAS SHOCKED.

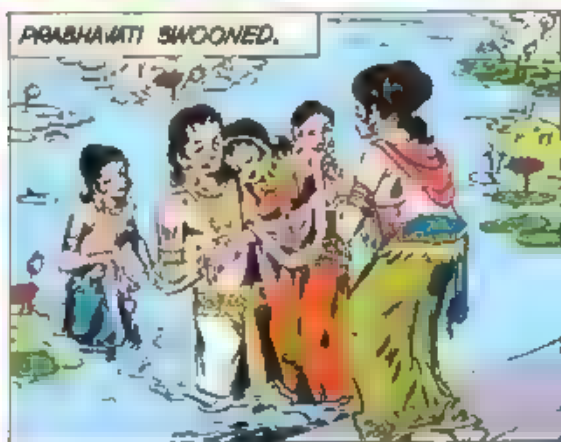
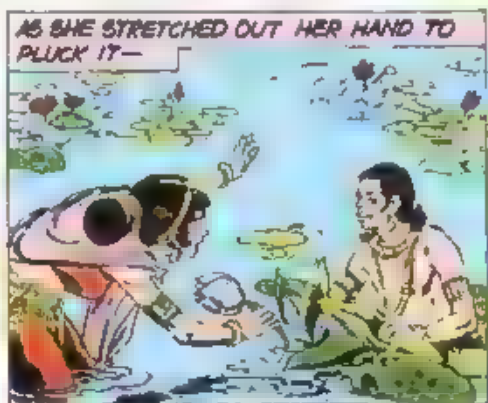
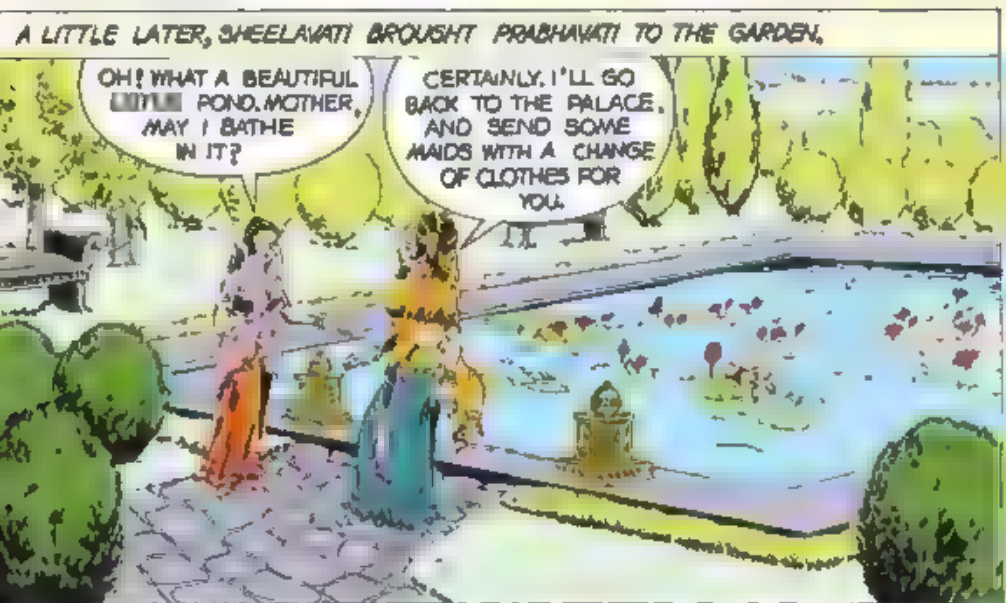
WHAT IS THAT HIDEOUS ONE KING KUSHA!

AH! ISN'T THAT PRABHAVATI'S NURSE? SHE IS HERE TO SPY ON ME.

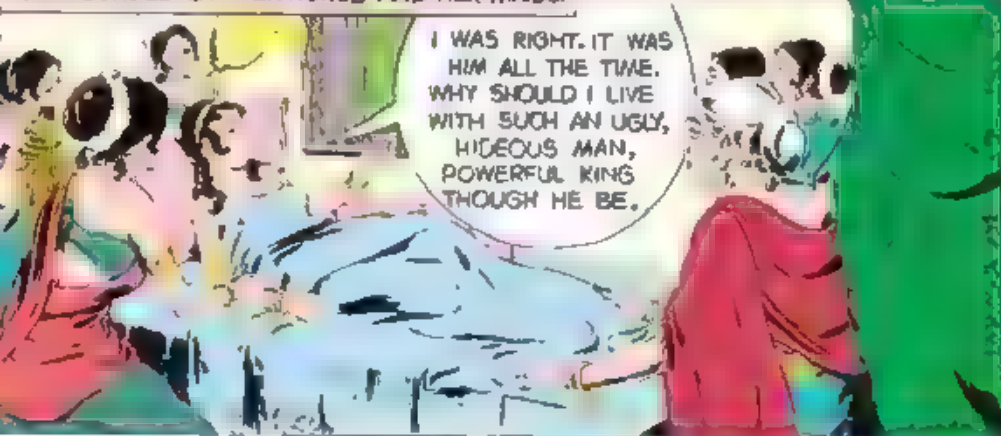




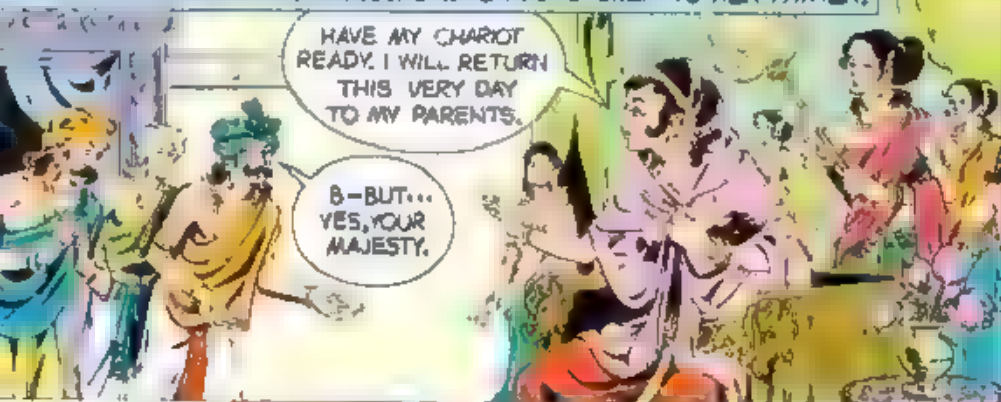




WHEN SHE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, SHE FOUND HERSELF IN HER CHAMBER SURROUNDED BY HER NURSE AND HER MAIDS.



SHE SUMMONED THE COUNCILLORS WHO HAD SPOKEN TO HER FATHER.



NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO, THEY WENT AND CONSULTED KUSHA.





THOUGH KUSHA SO KIND-HEARTEDLY LET PRABHAVATI GO, HE WAS DESOLATE. TWO DAYS LATER -

BY THIS TIME SHE WILL HAVE REACHED SAGALA.



HE WENT TO HIS MOTHER.

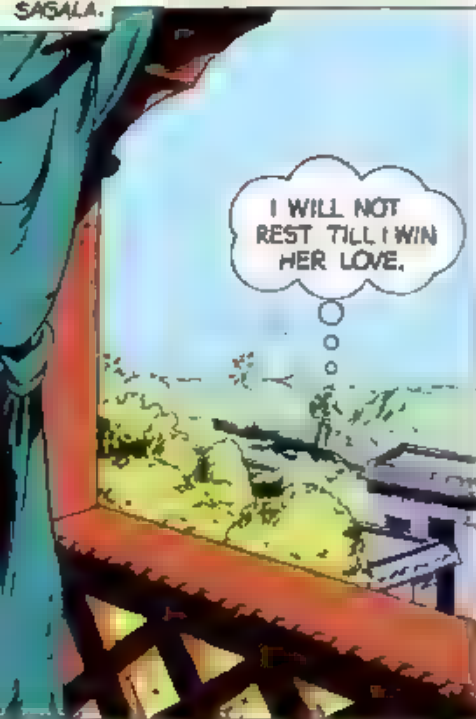
MOTHER, I WILL GO AND BRING PRABHAVATI BACK, WITH HER CONSENT.

GO, MY SON. BUT TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.



EQUIPPING HIMSELF WITH ALL THAT HE WOULD NEED, KUSHA SET OUT FOR SAGALA.

I WILL NOT REST TILL I WIN HER LOVE.

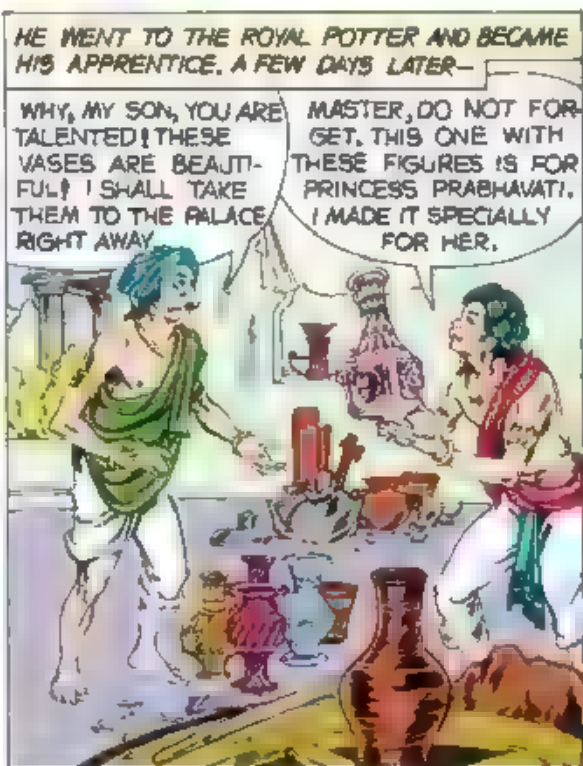


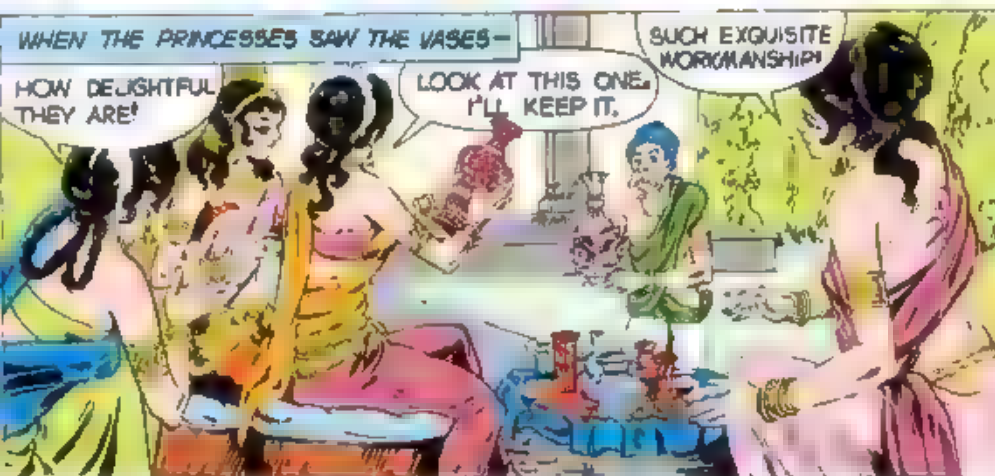
WHEN HE REACHED SAGALA, HE ENTERED THE PALACE AND FOUND HIS WAY TO THE ELEPHANT STALLS.

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

LET ME STAY HERE FOR THE NIGHT AND I WILL PLAY THE VEENA FOR YOU.









THE POTTER CAME UP TO PRABHAVATI.

THIS HE MADE  
SPECIALLY  
FOR YOU,  
O PRINCESS  
PRABHAVATI.

WHY, THESE  
FIGURES...! THEY  
RESEMBLE ME AND  
MY NURSE... ONLY  
HE COULD HAVE  
MADE THESE!

SHE BECAME TERRIBLY ANGRY AND FLUNG THE VASE TO THE FLOOR.

I DON'T WANT IT.  
IT'S HIDEOUS.

HAI HAI! OUR  
SISTER BEHAVES  
AS IF IT WERE  
A GIFT FROM  
KING KUSHA  
HIMSELF.

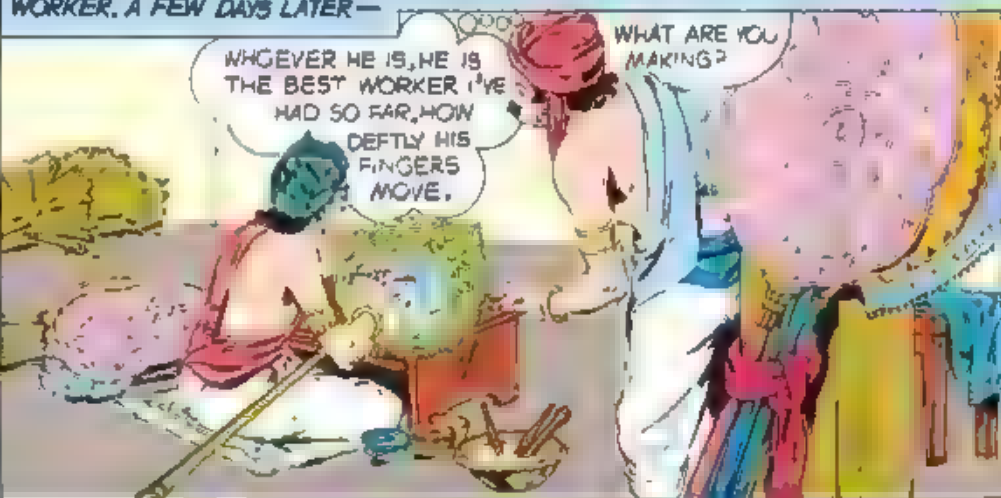
THE POTTER RETURNED AND TOLD KUSHA ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED AT THE PALACE.

... BUT THE KING  
CERTAINLY LIKED  
YOUR WORK. HERE,  
THESE GOLD COINS  
ARE A GIFT TO  
YOU FROM HIM.

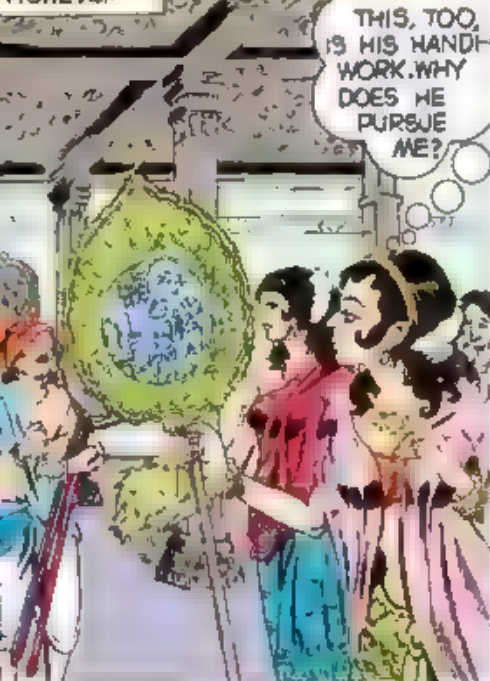
YOU MAY  
KEEP THE  
MONEY.

IT'S NO USE MY  
STAYING HERE.  
I'D BETTER TRY  
FROM ELSEWHERE.

KUSHA LEFT THE POTTER AND APPRENTICED HIMSELF TO THE ROYAL WICKER-  
WORKER. A FEW DAYS LATER—

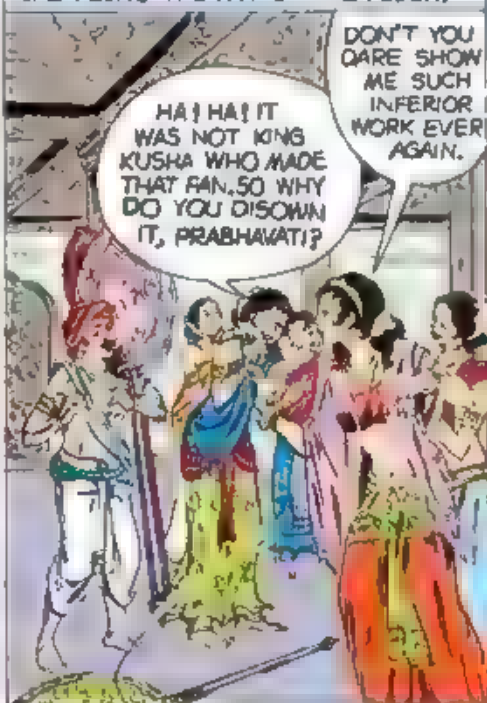


THE MOMENT PRABHAVATI SAW THE FAN, HOWEVER—



THIS, TOO, IS HIS HAND-  
WORK. WHY DOES HE PURSUE ME?

SHE FLUNG THE FAN ON THE FLOOR.



HA! HA! IT WAS NOT KING KUSHA WHO MADE THAT FAN, SO WHY DO YOU DISOWN IT, PRABHAVATI?

DON'T YOU DARE SHOW ME SUCH INFERIOR WORK EVER AGAIN.

THE WICKER-WORKER RETURNED, AND TOLD KUSHA ALL THAT HADDED AT THE PALACE.

...WOMEN ARE STRANGE. I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE THREW IT ON THE FLOOR IN A RAGE.



KUSHA KNEW.

I WILL HAVE TO TRY SOME OTHER MEANS TO MEET HER.



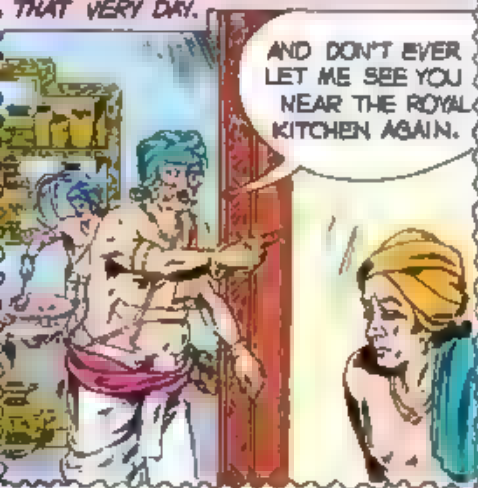


HE PONDERED FOR A WHILE, THEN—

I KNOW WHAT, I SHALL SEEK SERVICE IN THE ROYAL KITCHEN. PERHAPS...



KUSHA WAS LUCKY. THE ROYAL COOK HAD SACKED ONE OF HIS ASSISTANTS THAT VERY DAY.



AND DON'T EVER LET ME SEE YOU NEAR THE ROYAL KITCHEN AGAIN.

SO THE MOMENT KUSHA APPROACHED THE ROYAL COOK —

IN FACT, I NEED A HELP, BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO COOK YOUR OWN MEAL IN THE KITCHEN MEANT FOR MENIALS.

THAT IS NO PROBLEM, SIR.



KUSHA SOON BECAME AN EXPERT COOK— BETTER EVEN THAN HIS MASTER. ONE DAY—

HERE, YOU MAY COOK THIS OHP FOR YOURSELF.



AN HOUR LATER, AS THE KING WAS BEING SERVED—

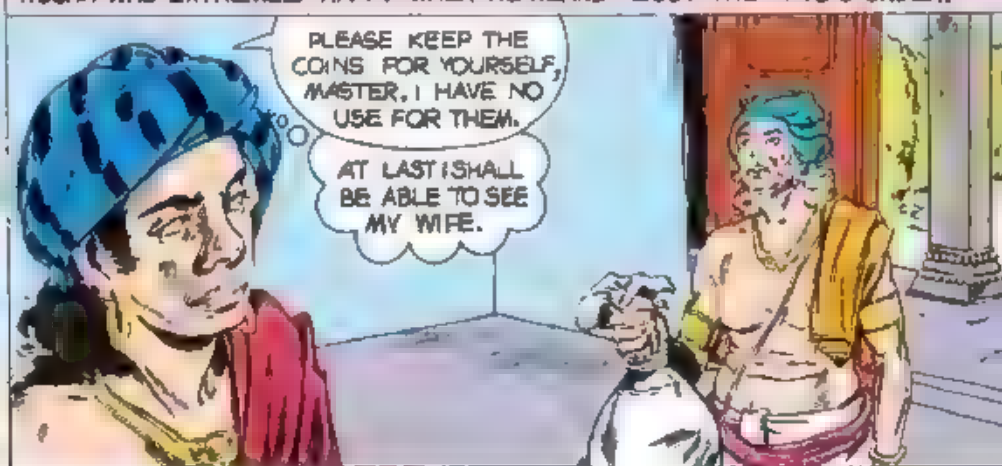


AFTER THE KING HAD TASTED IT—

HENCEFORTH YOUR ASSISTANT SHALL COOK FOR ME AND MY DAUGHTERS! AND GIVE HIM THESE GOLD COINS.



KUSHA WAS EXTREMELY HAPPY WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT THE KING'S ORDER.

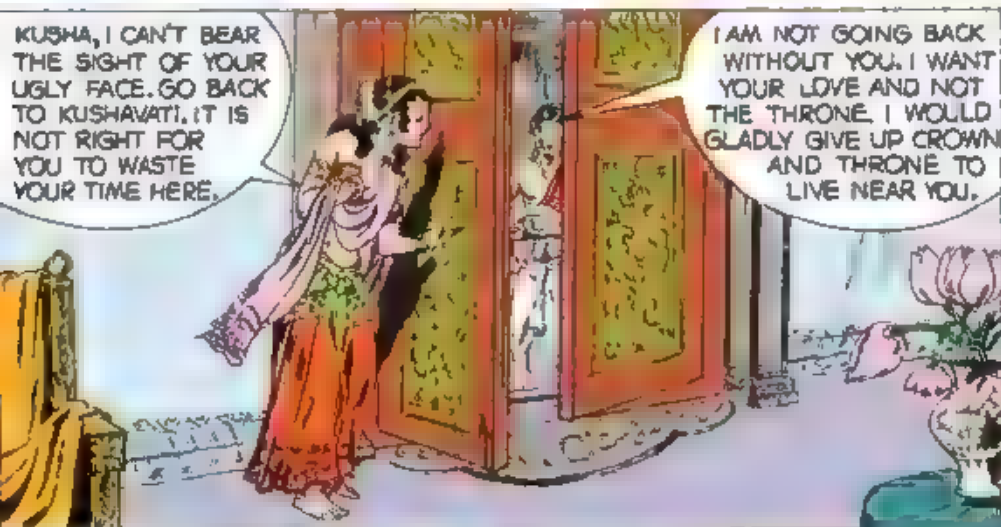


THE NEXT DAY—



I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.  
YET I MUST NOT LET  
HIM KNOW THAT I  
DO OR HE WILL  
STAY ON, THINKING  
I'VE YIELDED.

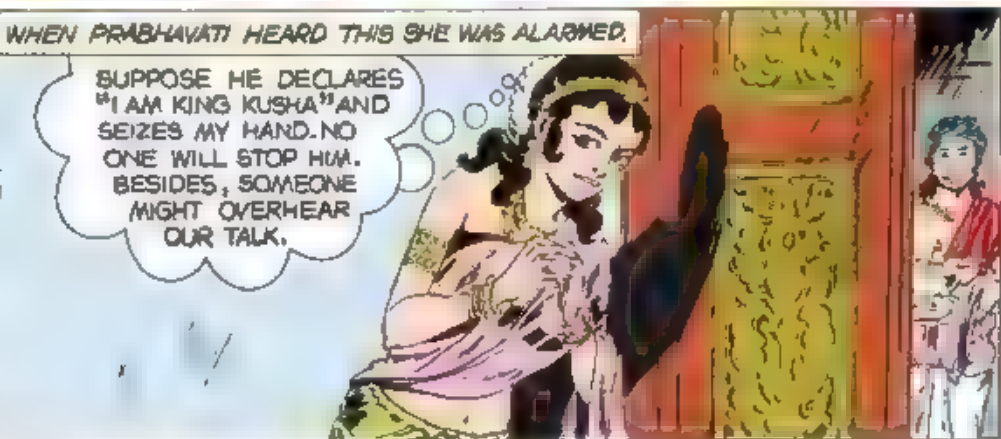
KUSHA, I CAN'T BEAR  
THE SIGHT OF YOUR  
UGLY FACE. GO BACK  
TO KUSHAVATI. IT IS  
NOT RIGHT FOR  
YOU TO WASTE  
YOUR TIME HERE.



I AM NOT GOING BACK  
WITHOUT YOU. I WANT  
YOUR LOVE AND NOT  
THE THRONE. I WOULD  
GLADLY GIVE UP CROWN  
AND THRONE TO  
LIVE NEAR YOU.

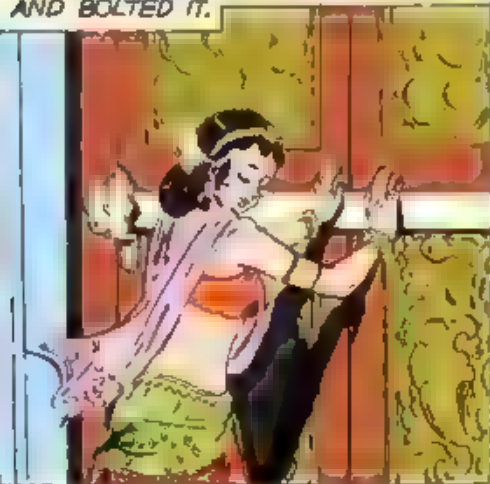
WHEN PRABHAVATI HEARD THIS SHE WAS ALARMED.

SUPPOSE HE DECLARES  
"I AM KING KUSHA" AND  
SEIZES MY HAND. NO  
ONE WILL STOP HIM.  
BESIDES, SOMEONE  
MIGHT OVERHEAR  
OUR TALK.





TO DISCOURAGE ANY FURTHER DIALOGUE, SHE CLOSED THE DOOR AND BOLTED IT.



KUSHA GAZED FOR A MOMENT AT THE CLOSED DOOR, AND THEN WENT DOWN.

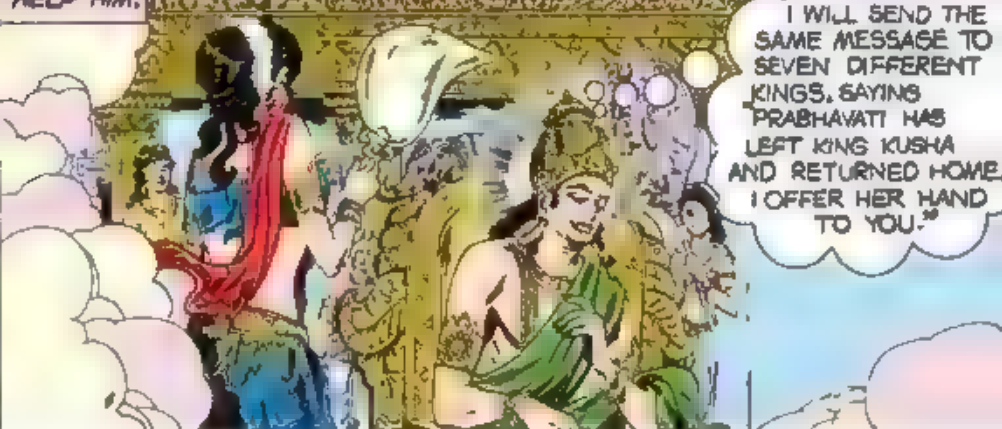


BUT SEVEN LONG MONTHS PASSED AND KUSHA TOILED ON. AT LAST--

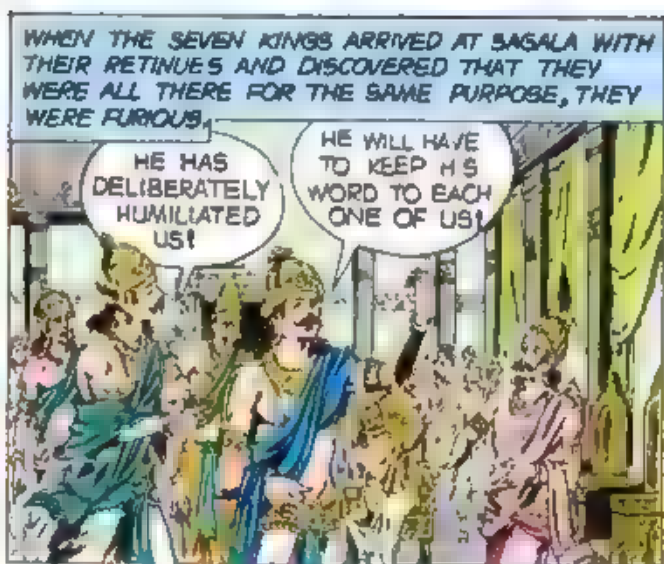
IN SEVEN MONTHS, SHE HAS NOT SO MUCH AS LET ME HAVE A GLIMPSE OF HER. WHY DO I PINE FOR HER? SHE IS HARSH AND CRUEL. I WILL RETURN TO MY KINGDOM AND MY PARENTS.

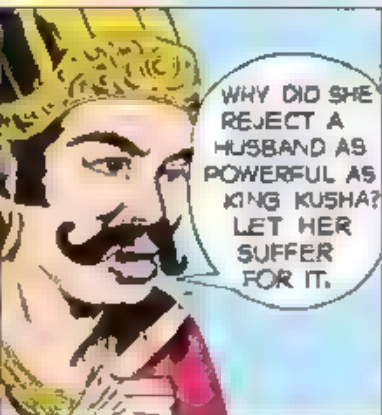


AT THAT MOMENT, REALISING HOW DISAPPOINTED KUSHA WAS, INDRA DECIDED TO HELP HIM.



I WILL SEND THE SAME MESSAGE TO SEVEN DIFFERENT KINGS, SAYING PRABHAVATI HAS LEFT KING KUSHA AND RETURNED HOME. I OFFER HER HAND TO YOU.

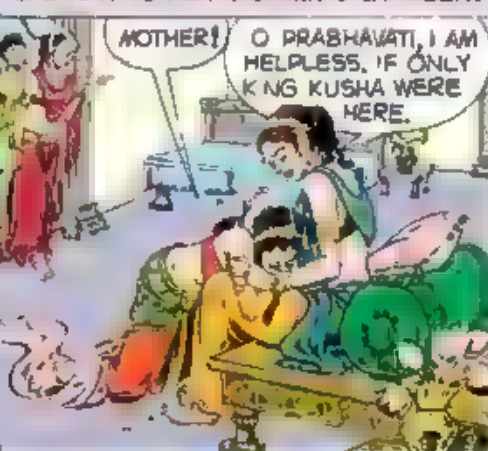




WHEN PRABHAVATI HEARD OF HER FATHER'S  
DECISION, SHE WAS TERRIFIED.



SHE RAN TO HER MOTHER'S CHAMBER.



HE IS HERE,  
MOTHER. COME  
I'LL TAKE YOU  
TO HIM.



PRABHAVATI LED HER MOTHER TO THE KITCHEN.

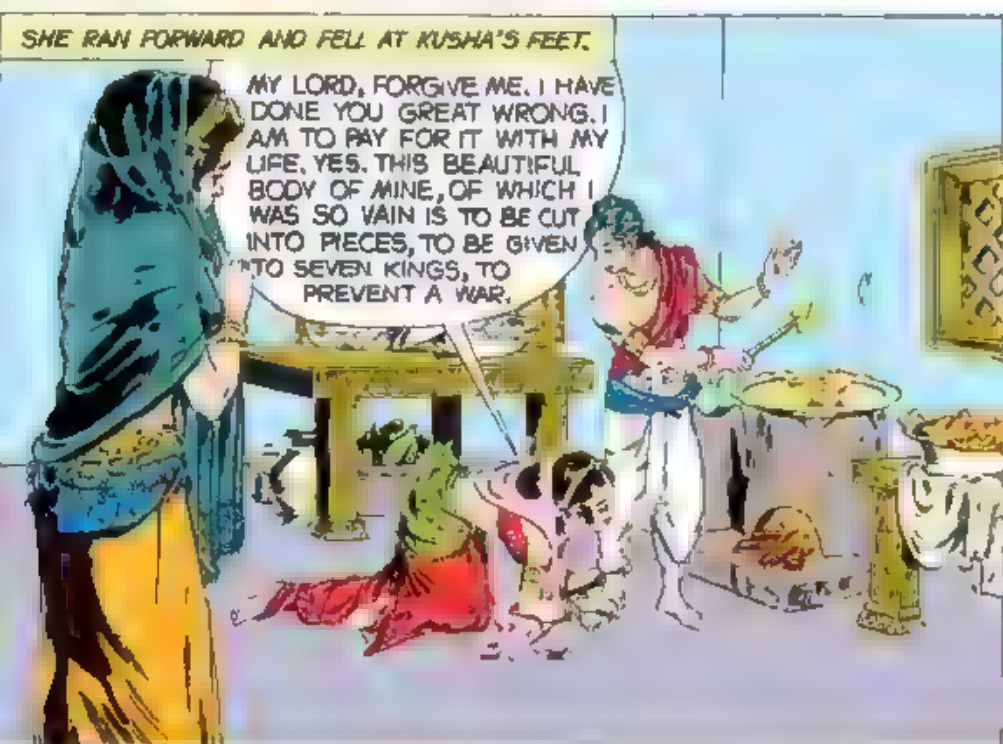
LOOK! THERE HE IS—  
IN THE GUISE OF A  
COOK. HE CAME  
HERE FOR MY SAKE.





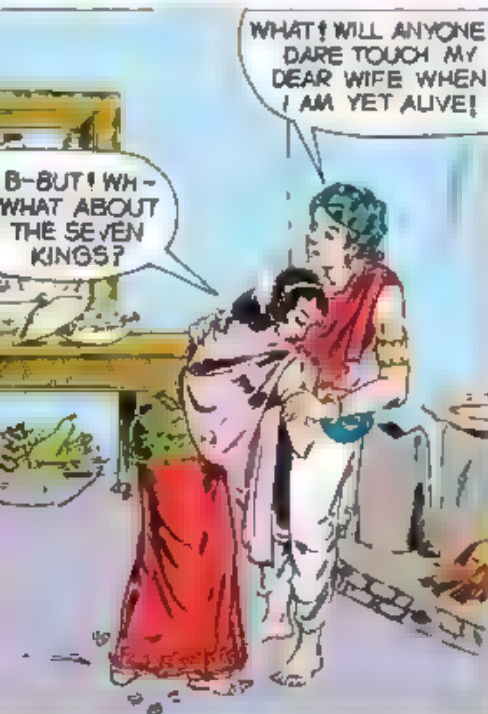
SHE RAN FORWARD AND FELL AT KUSHA'S FEET.

MY LORD, FORGIVE ME. I HAVE DONE YOU GREAT WRONG. I AM TO PAY FOR IT WITH MY LIFE. YES. THIS BEAUTIFUL BODY OF MINE, OF WHICH I WAS SO VAIN IS TO BE CUT INTO PIECES, TO BE GIVEN TO SEVEN KINGS, TO PREVENT A WAR.



WHAT! WILL ANYONE DARE TOUCH MY DEAR WIFE WHEN I AM YET ALIVE!

B-BUT! WH-  
WHAT ABOUT  
THE SEVEN  
KINGS?



LEAVE THAT TO ME, GO. BATHE AND ADORN YOURSELF AND WAIT FOR ME IN YOUR PALACE.



KUSHA SETTLED MATTERS BY OFFERING HIS SEVEN SISTERS-IN-LAW TO THE SEVEN KINGS.



THEN HE AND PRABHAVATI WENT TO KUSHAVATI WHERE THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.





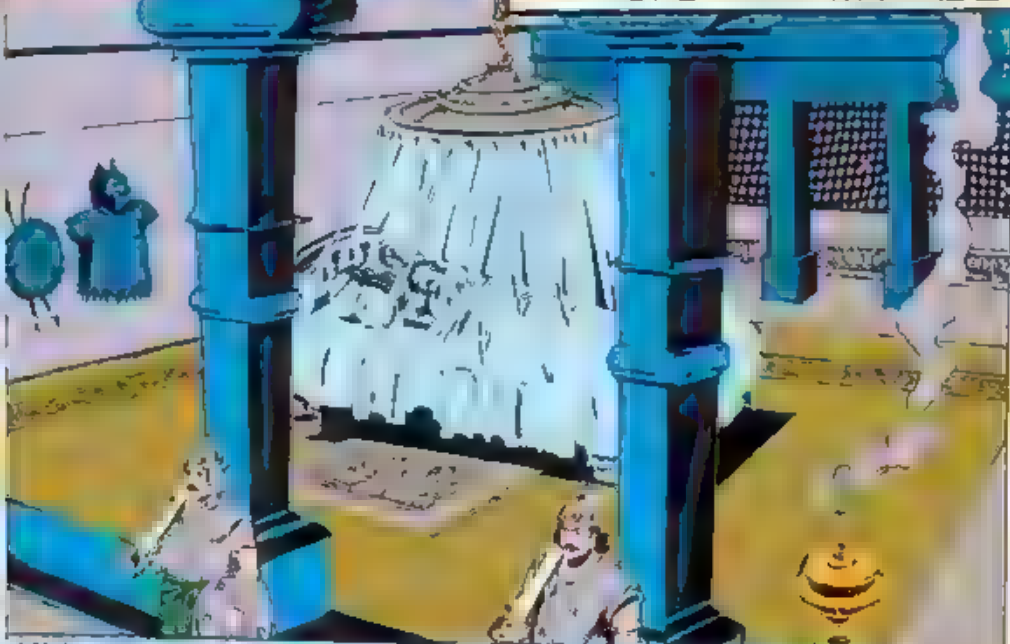
# ANGULIMALA

THE BANDIT WHO TOOK REFUGE IN BUDDHA





# ANGULIMALA



LONG, LONG AGO, A KING CALLED PRASENAJIT RULED OVER KOSALA\* FROM HIS CAPITAL, SHRAVASTI. ONE NIGHT WHEN HE WAS FAST ASLEEP..

THE ROOM WAS SUDDENLY LIT BY FLASHES OF LIGHT HE WOKE UP WITH A START.

WHO-WHAT'S  
THAT? THE WEAPONS!  
WHAT'S HAPPENING  
TO THEM? WHY DO  
THEY GLITTER  
SO?



\* PART OF MODERN U.P.

THE NEXT MOMENT HOWEVER ALL WAS DARK AGAIN



WAS IT A NIGHTMARE?  
WAS MY IMAGINATION  
PLAYING TRICKS ON ME?  
OR WAS I REALLY DAZZLED  
BY THE LIGHT FROM  
THE WEAPONS?

THE NEXT MORNING, ANY  
DOUBTS HE MIGHT HAVE  
HAD, VANISHED.

AT MIDNIGHT, THE WEAPONS  
IN THE ARMOURY AND IN  
EVERY HOUSE  
OF KOSALA, BLAZED, FOR  
A MOMENT, WITH A  
BRILLIANT LIGHT.



A STRANGE THING  
HAPPENED LAST NIGHT,  
YOUR MAJESTY!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE HOUSE OF THE  
ROYAL PRIEST, GARGA —



NOW HANDSOME  
IS OUR  
NEW-BORN SON!

HE IS, NO DOUBT. BUT I AM  
WORRIED IMMEDIATELY  
AFTER HIS BIRTH, STRANGE  
LIGHTS ISSUED FORTH  
FROM THE WEAPONS OF  
THE NIGHT-GUARDS.

WHEN THE PERTURBED GARGA CONSULTED A  
LEARNED ASTROLOGER -



I REGRET TO TELL  
YOU THAT YOUR SON  
IS GOING TO BE A  
ROBBER -- A MENACE  
TO OUR PEOPLE.

GARGA WENT TO THE PALACE AND  
TOLD THE KING THE STORY.



AH! THAT EXPLAINS  
WHY THE WEAPONS  
SHONE SO BRIGHTLY  
LAST NIGHT!

YOUR MAJESTY,  
I CANNOT REAR  
A SON WHO IS  
DESTINED TO BE  
A MENACE TO  
THE KINGDOM.



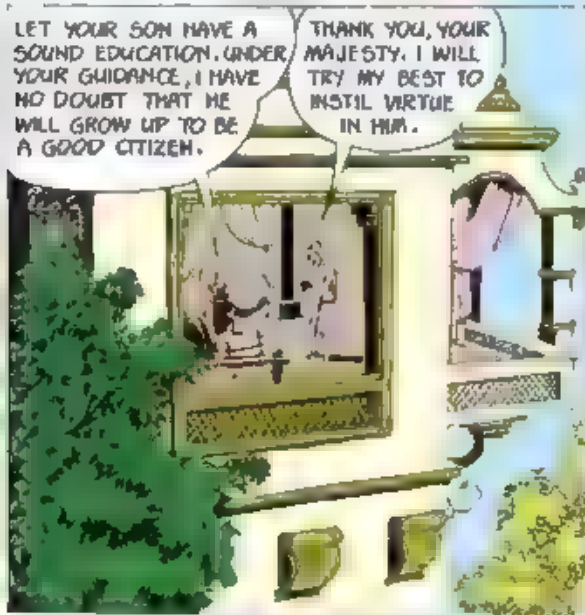
THE SCRIPTURES SAY  
THAT ONE LIFE MAY BE  
SACRIFICED TO SAVE A  
HUNDRED. THEREFORE  
PERMIT ME TO PUT  
HIM TO DEATH.

NO! I WON'T  
ALLOW THE  
KILLING OF  
AN INNOCENT  
BABY!



LORD BUDDHA HAS  
TAUGHT ME TO BE-  
LIEVE IN THE INNATE  
GOODNESS OF EVERY  
LIVING CREATURE





LET YOUR SON HAVE A SOUND EDUCATION. UNDER YOUR GUIDANCE, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT HE WILL GROW UP TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN.

THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY. I WILL TRY MY BEST TO INSTIL VIRTUE IN HIM.

THE INFANT WHO WAS NAMED AHIMSAKA, GREW UP TO BE AN INTELLIGENT BOY.

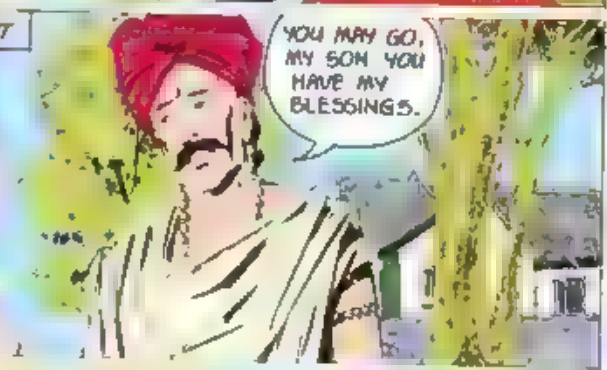
ONE AS DEDICATED AS HE IS TO THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES, CAN NEVER BECOME A ROBBER.



THEN, WHEN AHIMSAKA WAS ABOUT FOURTEEN YEARS OLD—

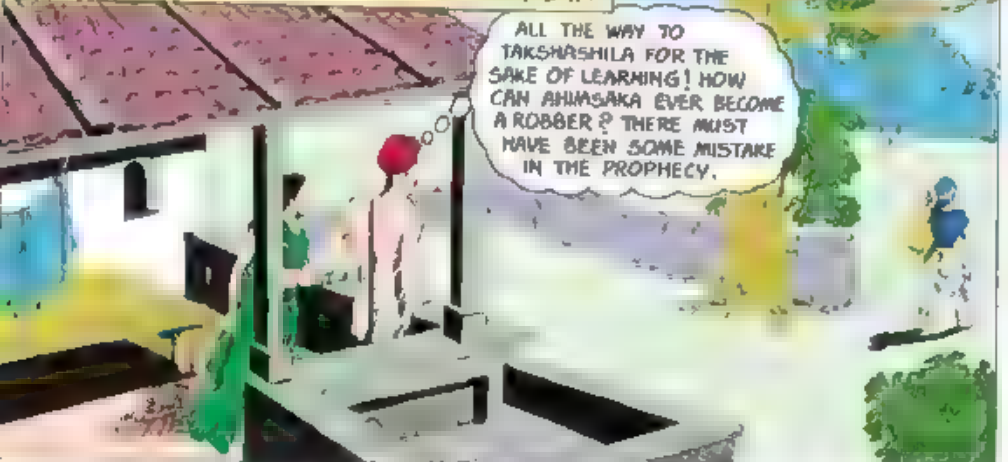


FATHER, PLEASE PERMIT ME TO GO TO TAKSHASHILA\*



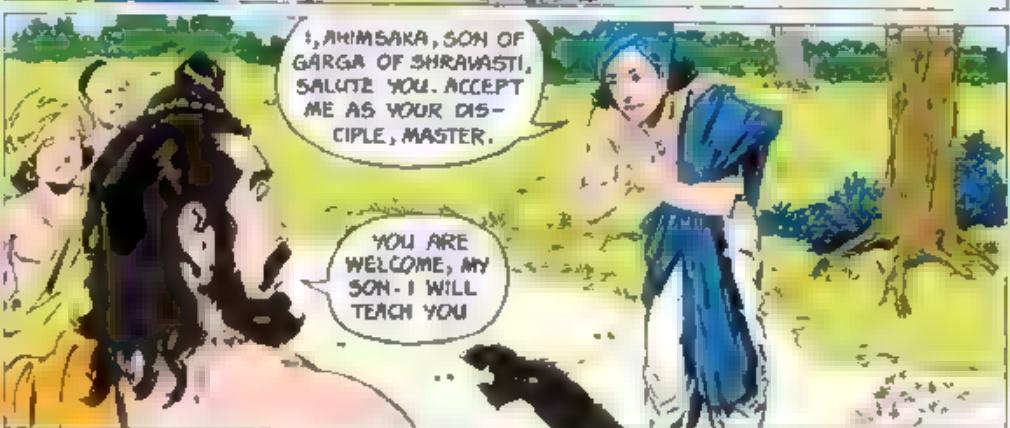
YOU MAY GO, MY SON YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS.

AHIMSAKA LEFT FOR TAKSHASHILA THAT VERY DAY.



ALL THE WAY TO TAKSHASHILA FOR THE SAKE OF LEARNING! HOW CAN AHIMSAKA EVER BECOME A ROBBER? THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME MISTAKE IN THE PROPHECY.

ON REACHING TAKSHASHILA, AHIMSAKA WENT TO  
A GREAT SCHOLAR OF THOSE DAYS.

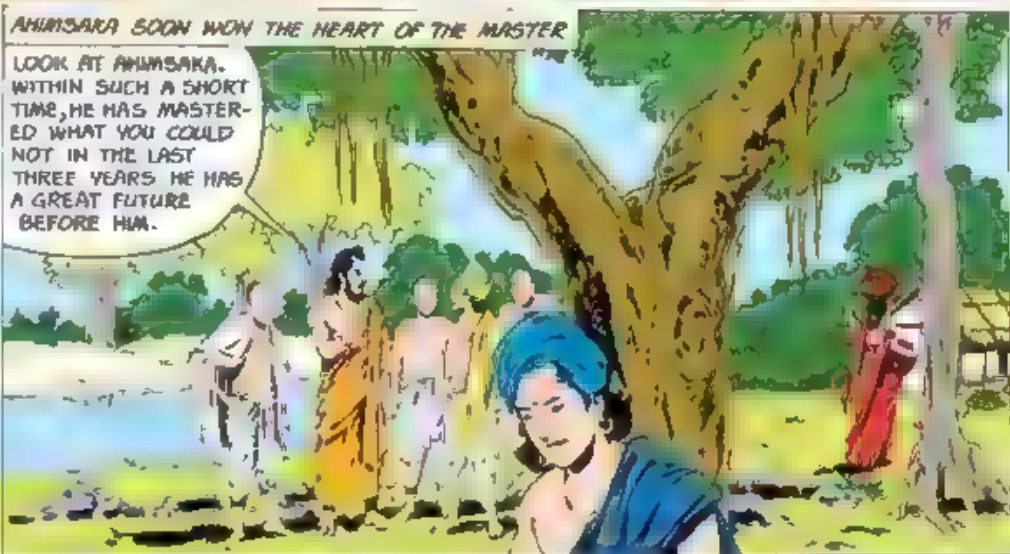


I, AHIMSAKA, SON OF  
GARGA OF SHRAVASTI,  
SALUTE YOU. ACCEPT  
ME AS YOUR DIS-  
CIPLE, MASTER.

YOU ARE  
WELCOME, MY  
SON. I WILL  
TEACH YOU

AHIMSARA SOON WON THE HEART OF THE MASTER

LOOK AT AHIMSARA.  
WITHIN SUCH A SHORT  
TIME, HE HAS MASTERED  
WHAT YOU COULD  
NOT IN THE LAST  
THREE YEARS. HE HAS  
A GREAT FUTURE  
BEFORE HIM.



SUCH COMMENTS AROUSED THE JEALOUSY OF THE OTHER DISCIPLES.

AHIMSAKA THINKS TOO MUCH OF HIMSELF.

OUR TEACHER'S PRAISE HAS GONE TO HIS HEAD.

WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.



THEY HATCHED A PLOT TO ESTRANGE THE MASTER FROM HIS FAVOURITE DISCIPLE.

QUICK! THE MASTER IS APPROACHING. LET US BEGIN OUR LITTLE DRAMA



AHIMSAKA IS A GREAT SCHOLAR

THAT'S WHY OUR MASTER PRAISES HIM SO.



INDEED, HE IS A GREATER SCHOLAR EVEN THAN OUR MASTER

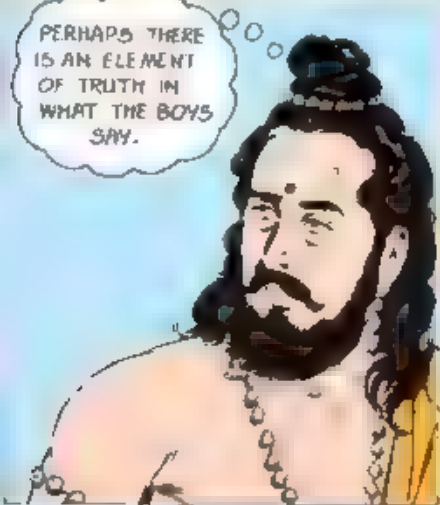


AT LEAST THE WIFE OF OUR REVERED MASTER THINKS SO



THE MASTER BECAME THOUGHTFUL.

PERHAPS THERE  
IS AN ELEMENT  
OF TRUTH IN  
WHAT THE BOYS  
SAY.

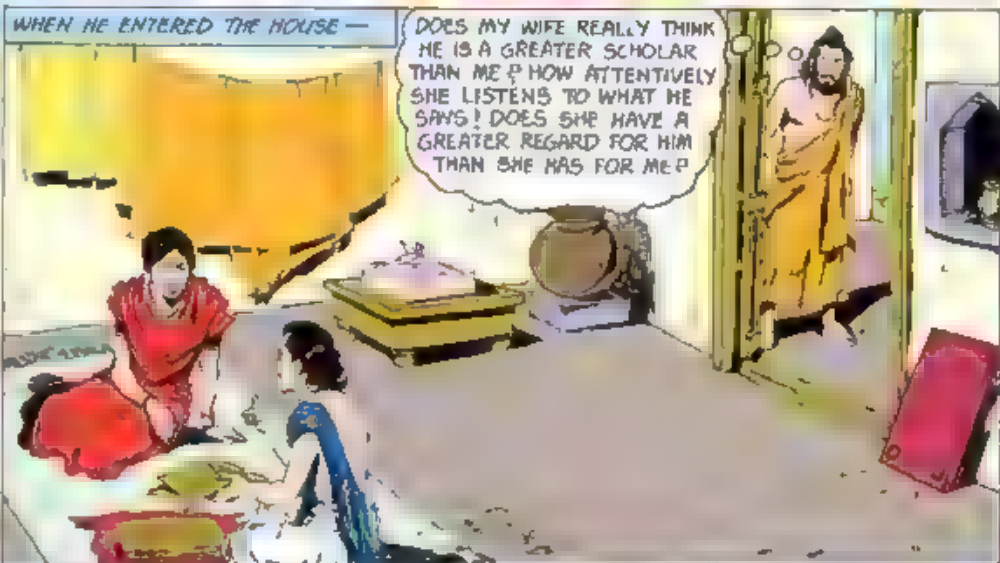


ONE DAY AHIMSAKA  
MAY PROVE TO BE  
MORE LEARNED THAN  
ME. MUST SEE THAT  
HE IS MADE AN OUT-  
CASTE, SHUNNED  
BY ALL.



WHEN HE ENTERED THE HOUSE —

DOES MY WIFE REALLY THINK  
HE IS A GREATER SCHOLAR  
THAN ME? HOW ATTENTIVELY  
SHE LISTENS TO WHAT HE  
SAYS! DOES SHE HAVE A  
GREATER REGARD FOR HIM  
THAN SHE HAS FOR ME?



WHATEVER THE  
TRUTH MAY BE,  
AHIMSAKA WILL  
HAVE TO GO.



HE ENTERED THE HALL STEALTHILY SO THAT HIS WIFE AND AHIMSAKA, DEEPLY ENGROSSSED IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS, WOULD NOT NOTICE HIS PRESENCE.



AHIMSAKA!  
GET UP!

I HAVE BEEN STANDING HERE ALL THIS WHILE. HAVE YOU BECOME SO ARROGANT THAT YOU FORGET TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF YOUR GURU?

PARDON ME, MASTER. I..



THE MASTER, HOWEVER, DIDN'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO CONTINUE.

HUMILITY SHOULD BE THE OUTCOME OF KNOWLEDGE, NOT ARROGANCE. YOU HAVE NO PLACE HERE. YOU MAY GO.



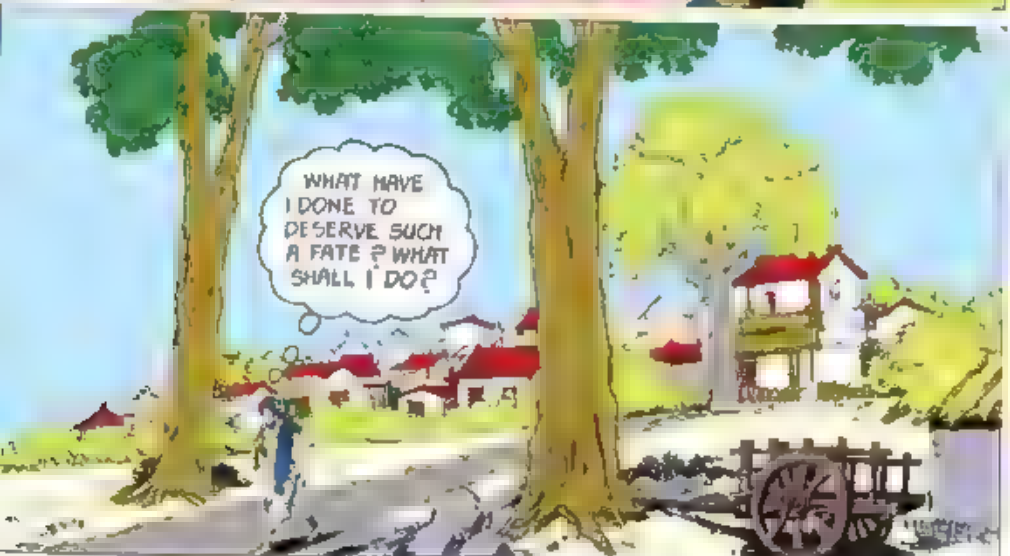
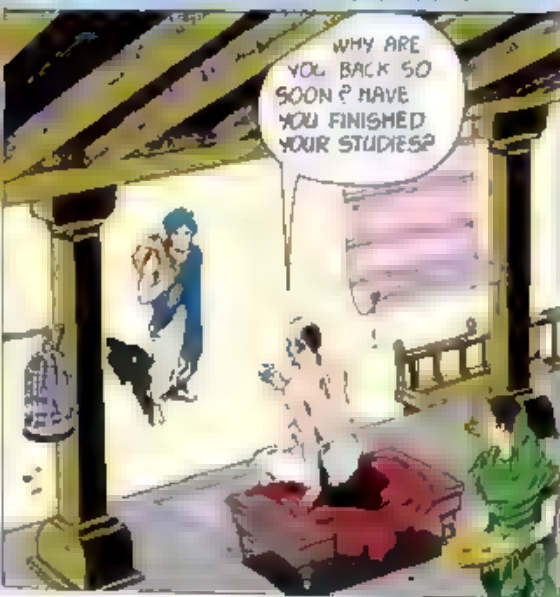
AS A BEMUSED AHIMSAKA WALKED AWAY FROM THE MASTER'S HOUSE, THE OTHER DISCIPLES GLOATED OVER THE SUCCESS OF THEIR PLOT.



IT WORKED!

I WAS CERTAIN IT WOULD.

WHEN ANIMSAKA RETURNED TO SHRAVASTI





I WILL TRY TO  
MAKE A LIVING WITH  
WHAT LITTLE KNOWL-  
EDGE I HAVE.



BUT AHIMSAKA'S EFFORTS TO FIND SOME  
WORK PROVED FUTILE.



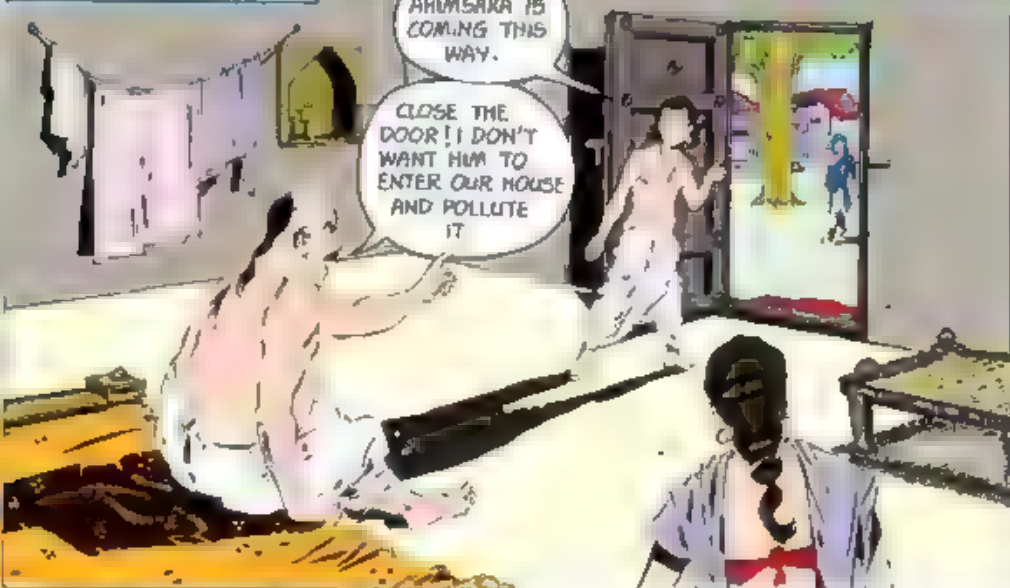
EMPLOY A  
YOUTH WHO  
HAS INCURRED  
THE DISPLEASURE  
OF HIS MASTER?  
NEVER!



HE WAS SHUNNED BY ALL

AHMSAKA IS  
COMING THIS  
WAY.

CLOSE THE  
DOOR! I DON'T  
WANT HIM TO  
ENTER OUR HOUSE  
AND POLLUTE  
IT



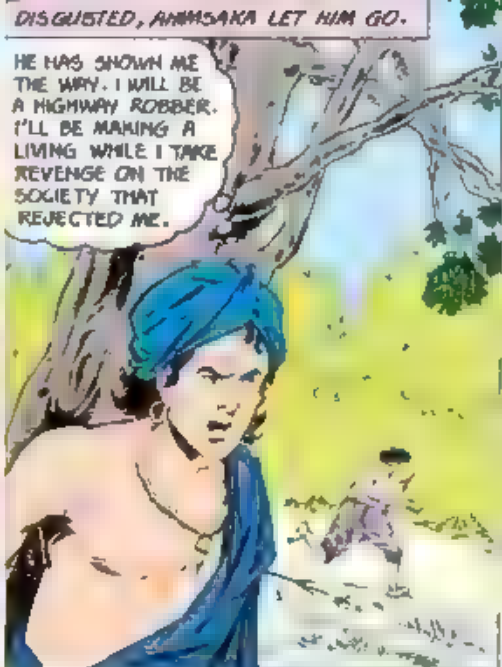


DEEP IN THOUGHT, AHIMSAKA LEFT KOSALA.





MERCY! PLEASE  
HAVE MERCY  
ON ME.



DISGUSTED, ANHSAKA LET HIM GO.

HE HAS SHOWN ME  
THE WAY. I WILL BE  
A HIGHWAY ROBBER.  
I'LL BE MAKING A  
LIVING WHILE I TAKE  
REVENGE ON THE  
SOCIETY THAT  
REJECTED ME.

LATER, IN THE EVENING, A FLEET OF BULLOCK CARTS CARRYING  
MERCHANDISE PASSED THAT WAY ON THEIR WAY TO KAUSHAMBH.



HALT!

MY GOD!  
A ROBBER!



HE IS ONE,  
WE ARE MANY.  
LET US CAPTURE  
HIM!



BUT THE MERCHANTS WERE  
NO MATCH FOR ANIMSAKA



ALL DEAD!  
GOOD!



I WILL KEEP THEIR  
ANGULIS\* AND MAKE  
A GARLAND OF  
THEM.



SOON, AHMSAKA'S ATROCIOUS DEEDS BECAME THE TALK OF KOSALA.



HE IS A MONSTER

WHO IS HE?

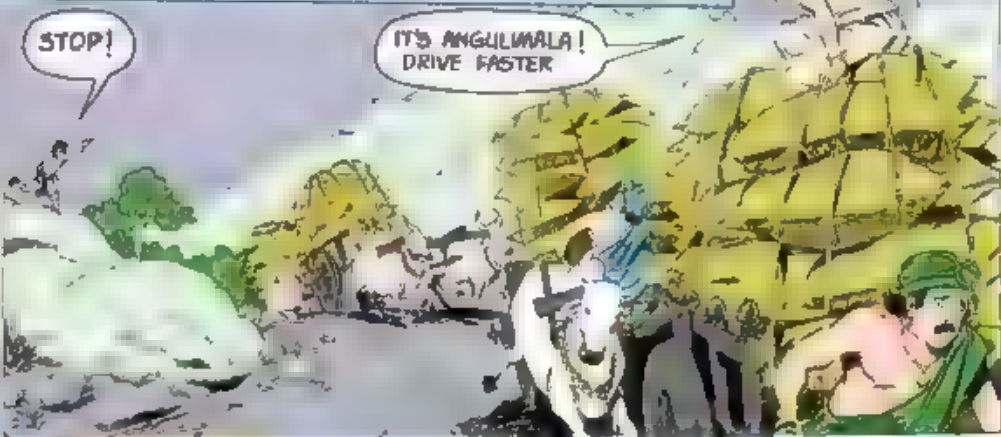
NO ONE KNOWS WHO HE IS NOR WHERE HE COMES FROM.

HE WEARS A STRANGE GARLAND...

SO I'VE HEARD - AN ANGULIMALA!

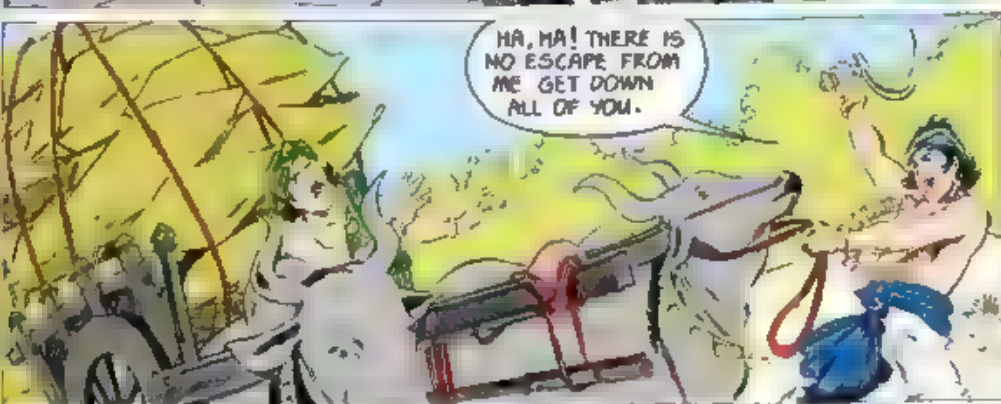
AND AHMSAKA BEGAN TO BE KNOWN AS ANGULIMALA.

THE TRADERS WHO HAD TO TRAVEL, CARRYING MERCHANDISE, WERE THE WORST HIT BY ANGULIMALA, AS THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO KAUSHAMBI WAS THROUGH ANGULIMALA'S HAUNTS.



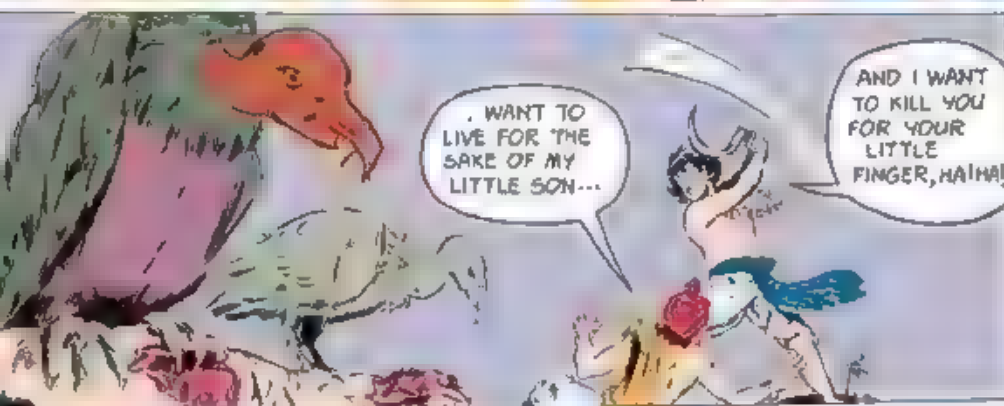
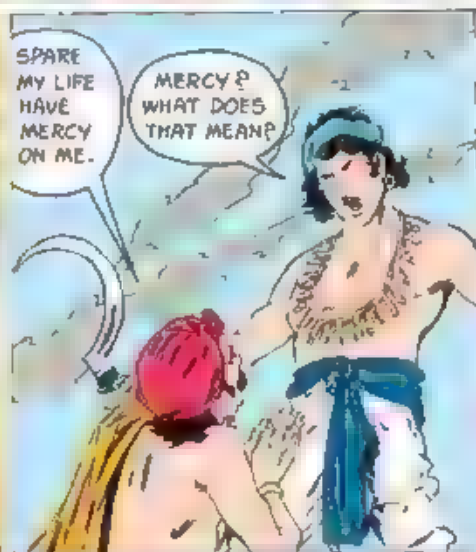
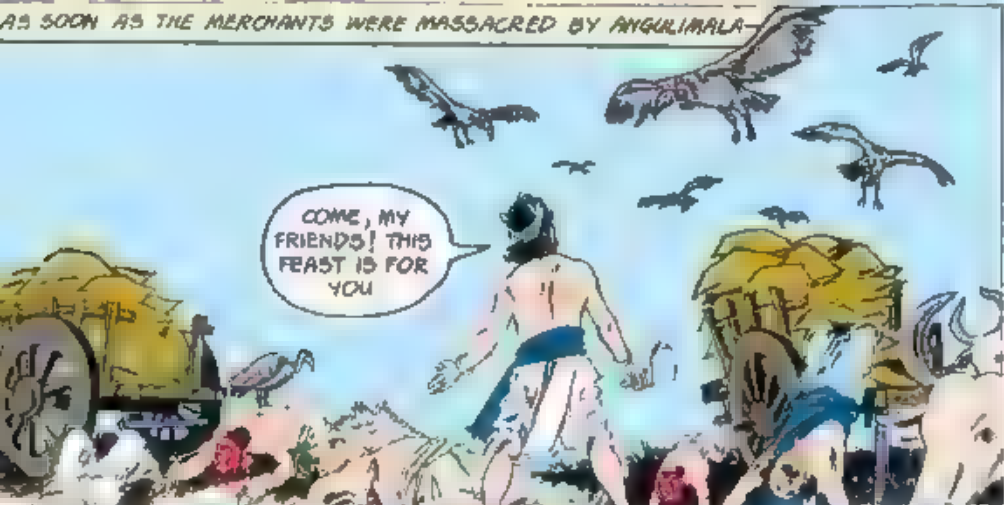
STOP!

IT'S ANGULIMALA! DRIVE FASTER



HA, HA! THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM ME GET DOWN ALL OF YOU.

AS SOON AS THE MERCHANTS WERE MASSACRED BY ANGULIMALA





AT LAST THE TERROR-STRICKEN  
SUBJECTS TURNED TO PRASENAJIT.

YOUR MAJESTY,  
DELIVER US  
FROM ANGULI-  
MALA.

I WILL COMMAND  
MY FOREST GUARDS  
TO CAPTURE THE  
NOTORIOUS  
MURDERER.

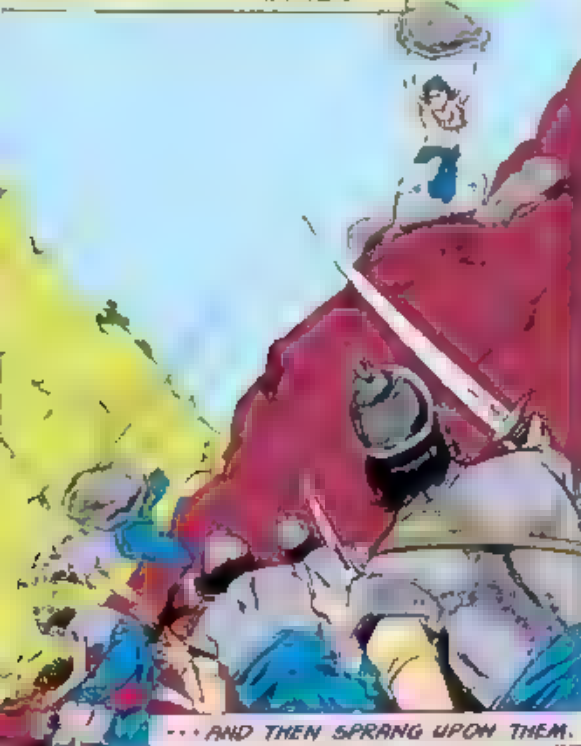


AS THE FOREST GUARDS ENTERED  
ANGULIMALA'S MOUNT —

A WHOLE ARMY OF  
THEM! GOOD! THAT  
MANY MORE FINGERS  
FOR MY GARLAND!



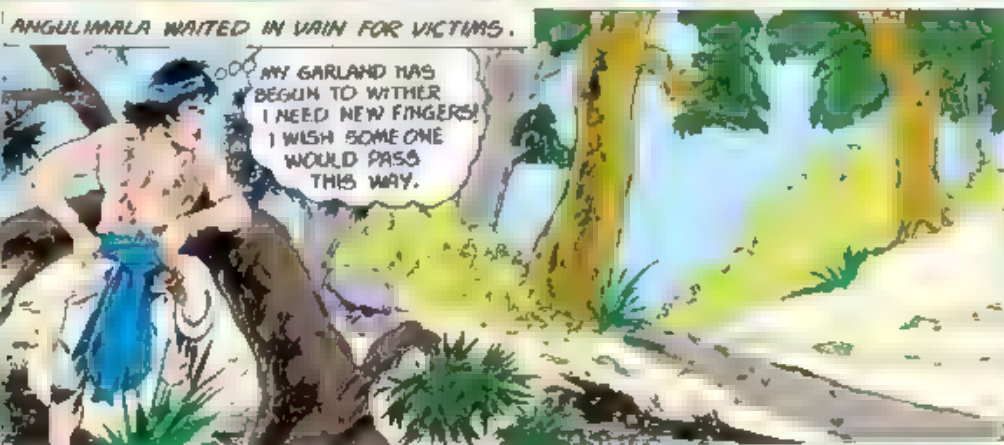
LIFTING UP HUGE BOULDERS, ANGULIMALA  
HURLED THEM AT THE GUARDS...



A FEW, HOWEVER, WERE ABLE TO  
ESCAPE WITH THEIR LIVES.



... AND THEN SPRANG UPON THEM.



ANGULIMALA RAN AFTER THE MONK.



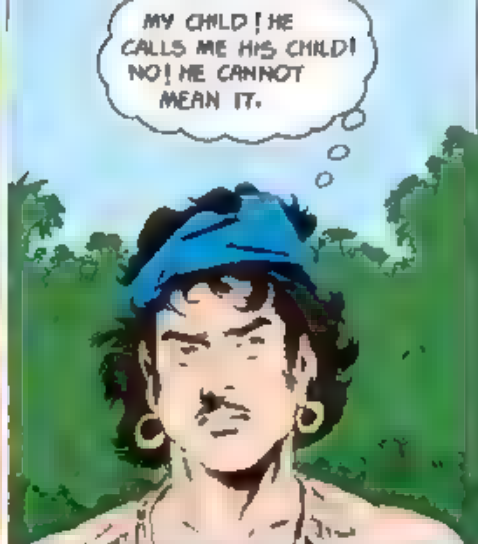
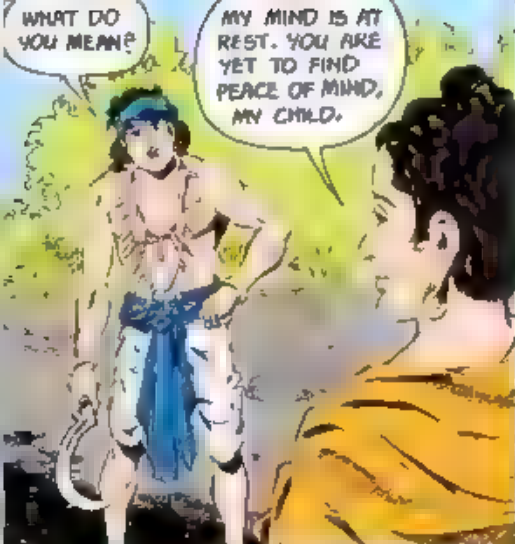
TO HIS ASTONISHMENT, HOWEVER, THE MONK, WHO SEEMED TO BE WALKING AT A LEISURELY PACE, WAS ALWAYS A STEP AHEAD.



AT LAST EXHAUSTED BY THE CHASE, ANGULIMALA PAUSED.







ANGULIMALA COLLAPSED AT THE FEET OF THE MONK.



THE MONK BROUGHT HIM TO THE MONASTERY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SHRAVASTI.



THE LOVING MONK WAS NONE OTHER THAN LORD BUDDHA.

THE NEXT MORNING, PRASENAJIT VISITED THE MONASTERY. THE KING HAD COME TO PAY HIS RESPECTS TO THE MASTER



IT LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU HAVE STARTED ON AN EXPEDITION

YES, MASTER. I WANT TO EXTERMINATE THAT MONSTER - ANGULIMALA. I HAVE COME FOR YOUR BLESSINGS.



SUPPOSING ANGULIMALA GIVES UP THE PATH OF VIOLENCE AND BEGINS TO LIVE THE LIFE OF AN ASCETIC. WHAT WILL YOUR REACTION

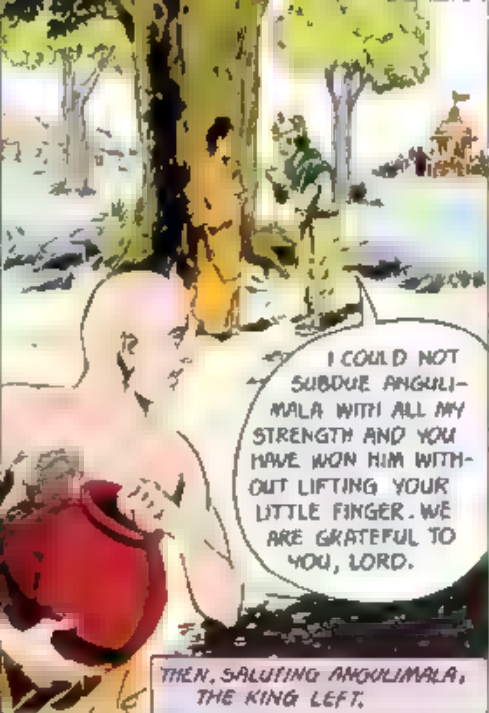
I WILL SALUTE HIM THEN, MY LORD. BUT PARDON ME, I CAN'T IMAGINE ANGULIMALA AS AN ASCETIC.



BUT HE HAS BECOME ONE. THERE HE IS, WATERING THE PLANTS.

WHAT!





ANGULIMALA BECAME DEVOTED TO BUDDHA. HE LISTENED TO THE MASTER'S WORDS OF WISDOM.



HE NURSED THE SICK.

I AM FEELING BETTER NOW, ANGULIMALA. YOU MAY REST.



ONE DAY WHEN ANGULIMALA WENT TO BEG FOR HIS FOOD.

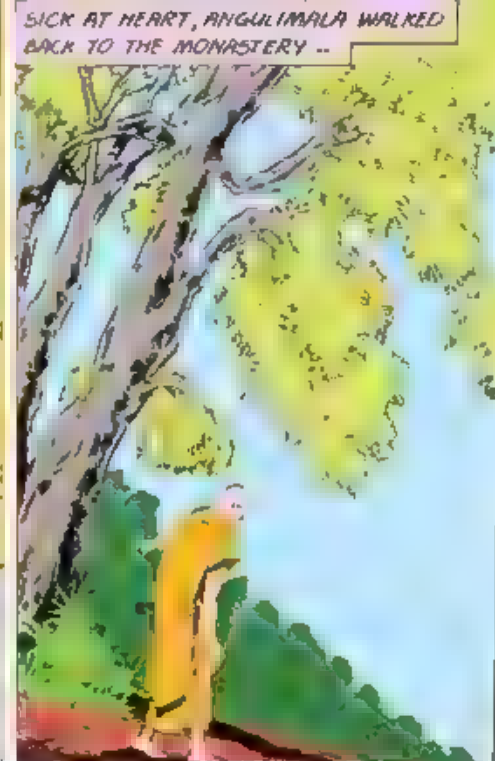


I HAVE NO FATHER. HE  
IS DEAD. HE WAS  
KILLED BY THE  
WICKED ANGULI-  
MALA

OH!



SICK AT HEART, ANGULIMALA WALKED  
BACK TO THE MONASTERY ..



WHERE HE SPENT MANY A SLEEPLESS NIGHT

AM AN ORPHAN  
YOU MADE ME ONE!

MURDERER!

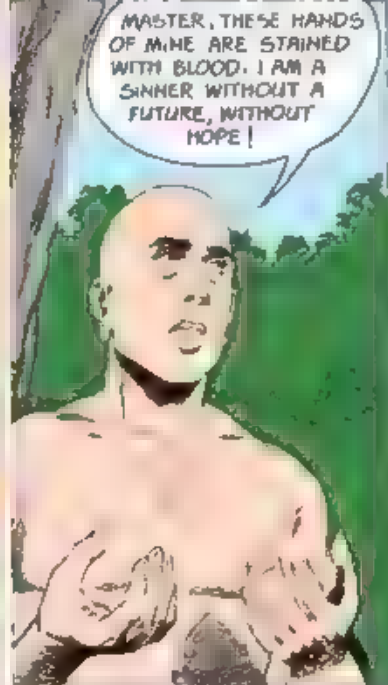
YOU KILLED  
MY FATHER

OH! NO,  
NO!

YES, YOU  
ARE A  
MURDERER!

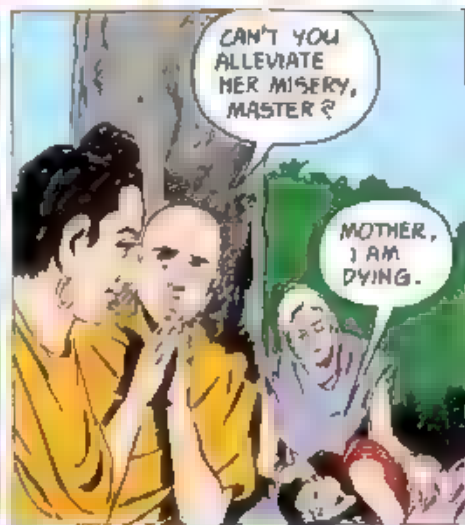
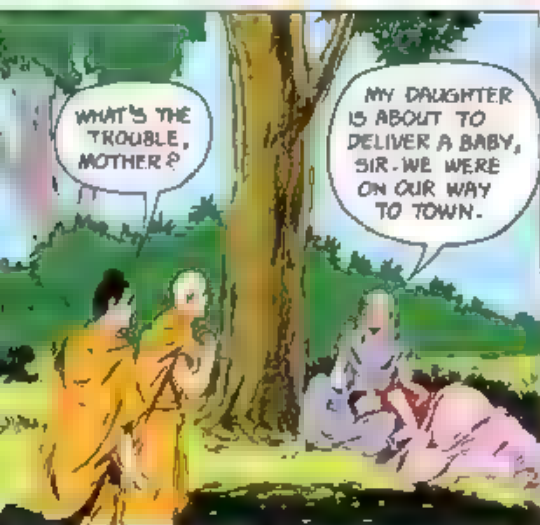


THAT ANGULIMALA HAD SUDDENLY BECOME DESPONDENT DID NOT ESCAPE THE NOTICE OF BUDDHA.

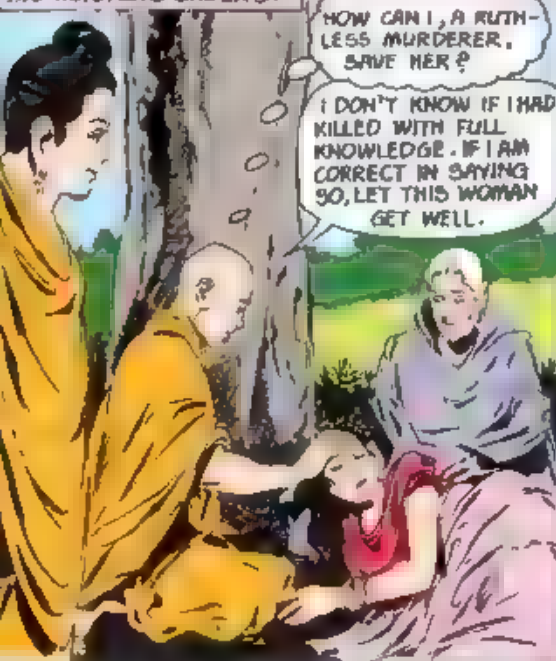




THEN ONE DAY, BUDDHA TOOK ANGULIMALA WITH HIM ON HIS ROUNDS. AS THEY PROCEEDED—



WITH MUCH RELUCTANCE, ANGULIMALA OBEYED HIS MASTER'S ORDERS.



HOW CAN I, A RUTHLESS MURDERER, SAVE HER?

I DON'T KNOW IF I HAD KILLED WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE. IF I AM CORRECT IN SAYING SO, LET THIS WOMAN GET WELL.

AND THE TWO RESUMED THEIR JOURNEY. SUDDENLY —



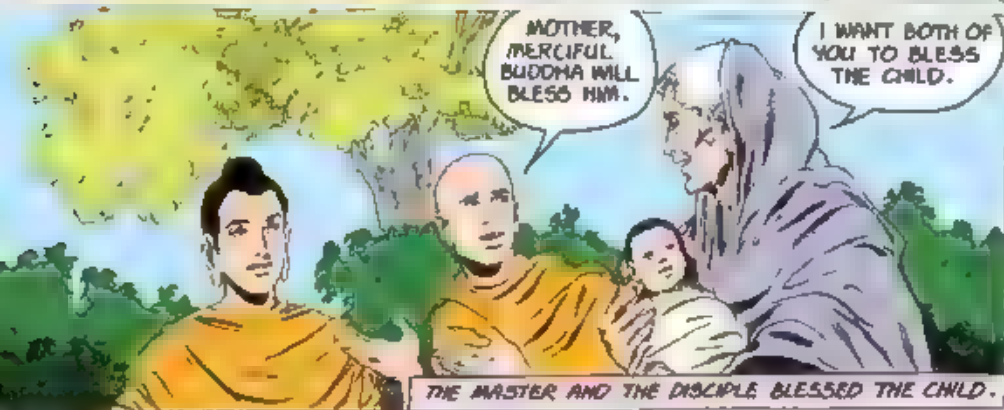
OH, SIR, PLEASE WAIT.

IT'S THE OLD WOMAN HER DAUGHTER MUST BE DYING.

THE OLD WOMAN APPEARED, BRINGING NEWS NOT OF DEATH, BUT OF LIFE.



SIR, YOU BLESSED MY DAUGHTER AND SAVED HER LIFE. BLESS HER LITTLE SON, TOO.



MOTHER, MERCIFUL BUDDHA WILL BLESS HIM.

I WANT BOTH OF YOU TO BLESS THE CHILD.

THE MASTER AND THE DISCIPLE BLESSED THE CHILD.

WHEN THE OLD WOMAN WENT AWAY—

ANGULIMALA, AT LEAST NOW ARE YOU CONVINCED THAT YOU HAVE OVERCOME YOUR PAST DEEDS?

I AM, MASTER, THANKS TO YOU.

SON, YOU NO LONGER NEED ME. YOU MUST WALK ALONE IN THE WORLD.

IF YOU INSIST, I WILL BUT IT IS YOU WHO HAVE GIVEN ME THE STRENGTH TO DO SO. BUDDHAM SHARANAM GACCHAMI\*.

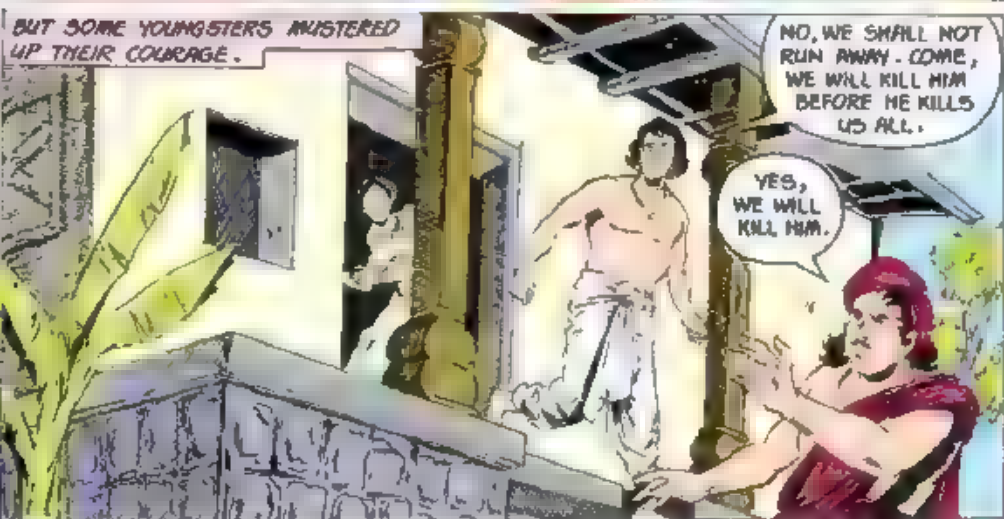
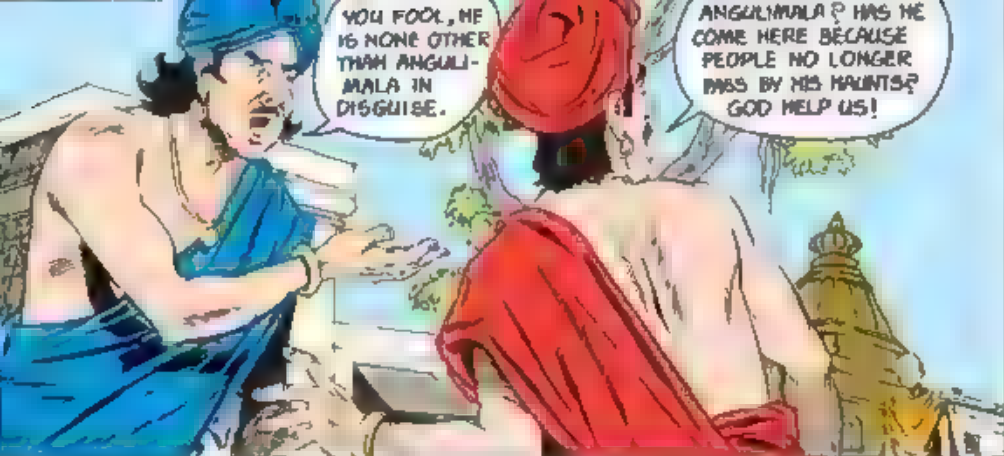
AFTER PARTING FROM BUDDHA, ANGULIMALA DECIDED TO GO TO SHRAVASTI - AS HE ENTERED THE CITY —

LOOK! DID YOU RECOGNISE HIM?

WHY? HE IS JUST A COMMON MONK OR IS HE A GREAT ONE?

\* I TAKE REFUGE IN BUDDHA

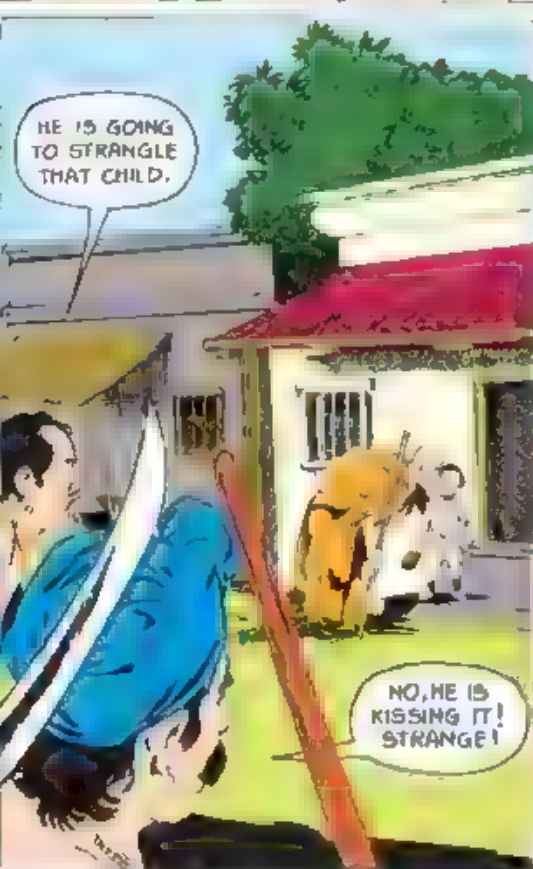




ARMING THEMSELVES, A FURIOUS MOB  
APPROACHED ANGULIMALA.



LOOK! A CHILD  
HAS COME OUT  
TO OFFER  
RICE TO THE  
MONSTER IN  
DISGUISE.



HE IS GOING  
TO STRANGLE  
THAT CHILD.

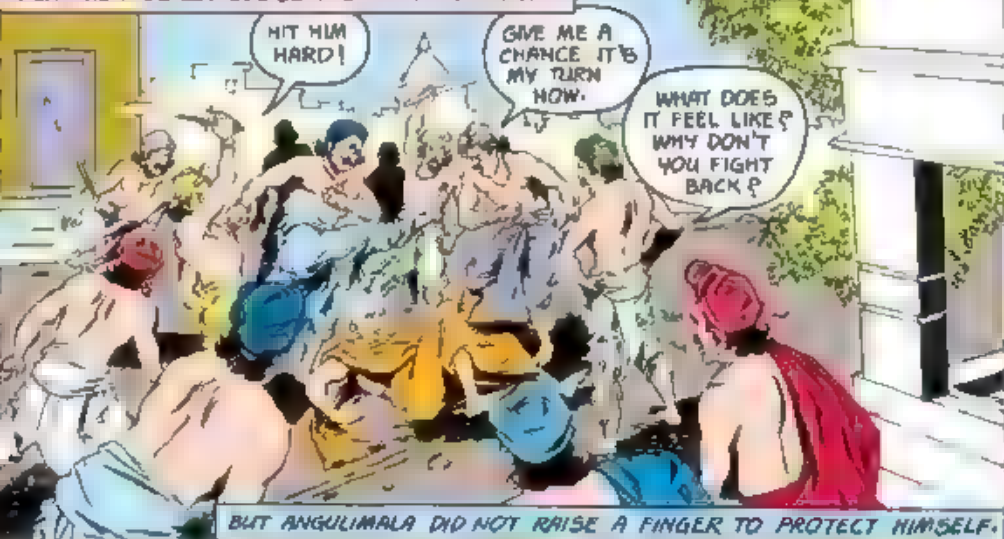
NO, HE IS  
KISSING IT!  
STRANGE!

AS SOON AS ANGULIMALA STEPPED  
OUT OF THE HOUSE, A STONE HIT  
HIM ON THE FOREHEAD.



IT WAS FOLLOWED BY MANY MORE.

THEN THE MOB LET LOOSE ITS PENT-UP FURY.



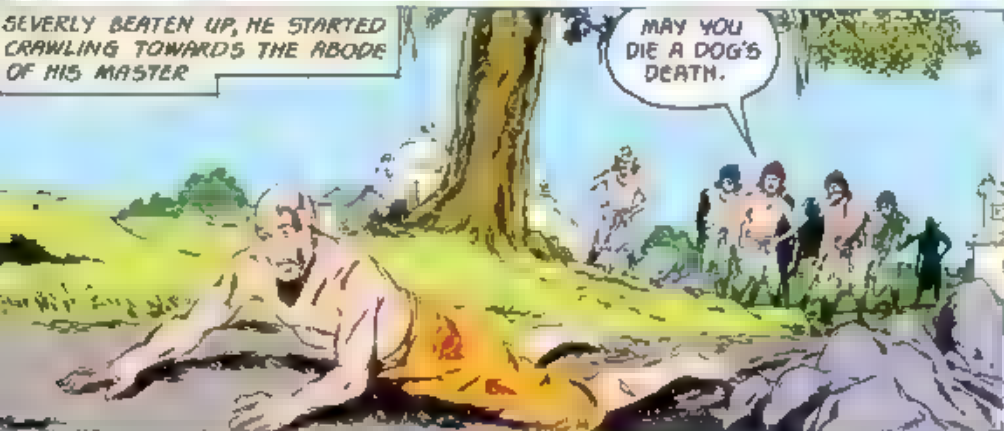
HIT HIM  
HARD!

GIVE ME A  
CHANCE IT'S  
MY TURN  
NOW.

WHAT DOES  
IT FEEL LIKE?  
WHY DON'T  
YOU FIGHT  
BACK?

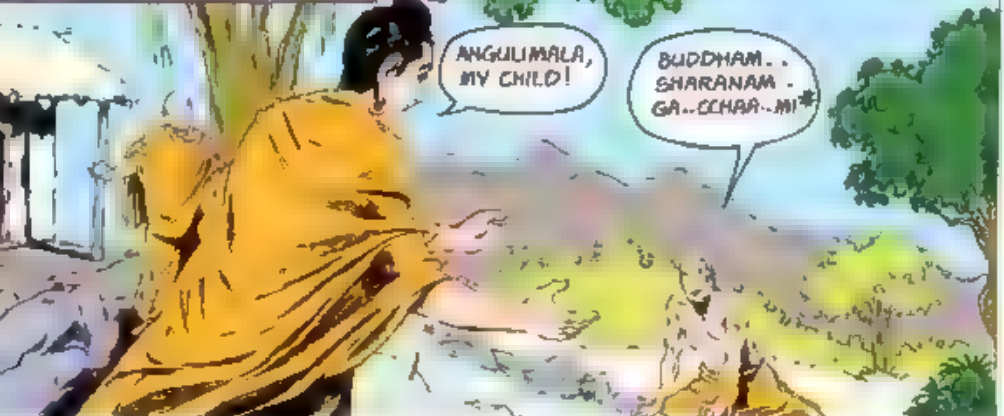
BUT ANGULIMALA DID NOT RAISE A FINGER TO PROTECT HIMSELF.

SEVERELY BEATEN UP, HE STARTED  
CRAWLING TOWARDS THE ABODE  
OF HIS MASTER



MAY YOU  
DIE A DOG'S  
DEATH.

WHEN HE REACHED THE MONASTERY—



ANGULIMALA,  
MY CHILD!

BUDDHAM..  
SHARANAM..  
GA..CHAA..MI\*

\* I TAKE REFUGE IN BUDDHA





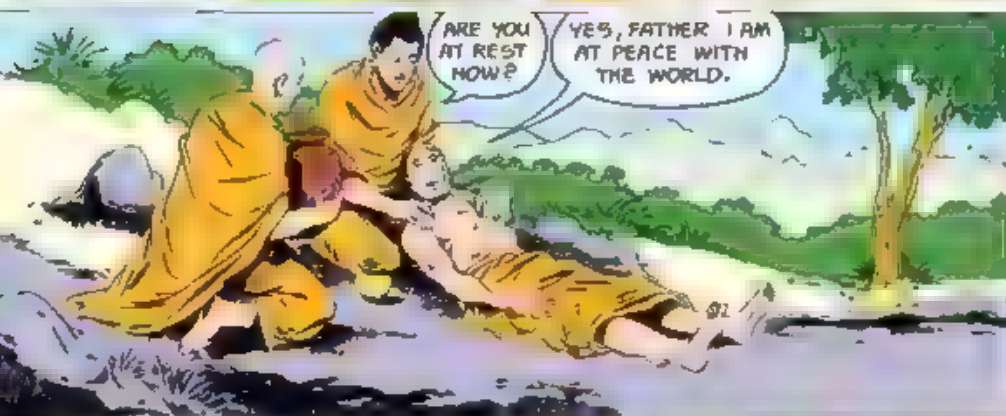
DO YOU  
FEEL BETTER,  
MY CHILD?

NEVER BEFORE  
HAVE I FELT BETTER  
THAN DO NOW,  
MASTER.



WERE YOU ANGRY  
WHEN THEY BEAT  
YOU UP?

NO, FATHER. WHEN  
I KILLED PEOPLE,  
I DID NOT KNOW  
WHAT I WAS DOING.  
SIMILARLY, THEY  
TOO DID NOT KNOW  
WHAT THEY WERE  
DOING.



ARE YOU  
AT REST  
NOW?

YES, FATHER I AM  
AT PEACE WITH  
THE WORLD.

AND ANGULIMALA BREATHED HIS LAST



ANGULIMALA WAS  
A GREAT SOUL. HE  
CONQUERED VICE,  
CRUELTY AND ANGER  
HE HAS ATTAINED  
NIRVANA.

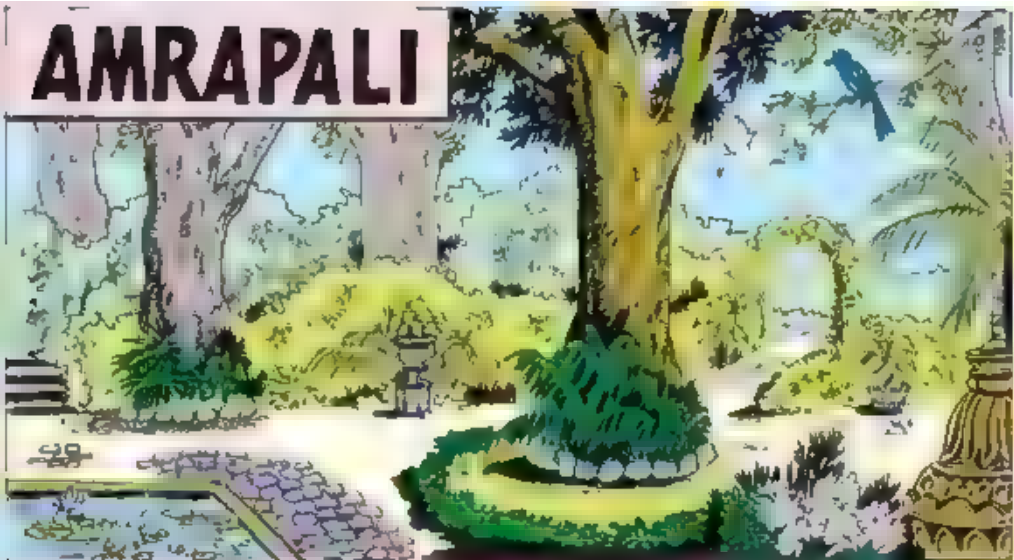


# AMRAPALI

CHOSEN BY BUDDHA



# AMRAPALI



THE LICCHAVI NOBLES, WHO RULED OVER ANCIENT VAISHALI, WERE GREAT LOVERS OF BEAUTY AND TOOK A KEEN INTEREST IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THEIR GARDENS.

THE BEST OF GARDENERS WAS EMPLOYED TO TEND THE PLANTS.



ONE DAY —

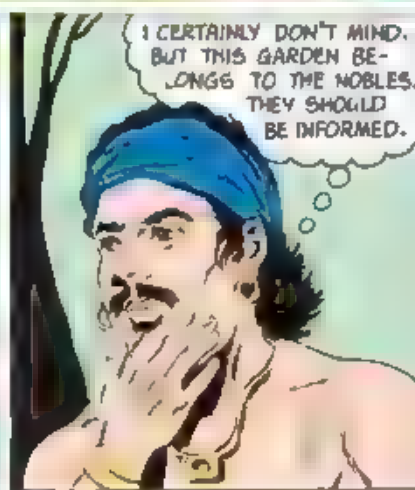
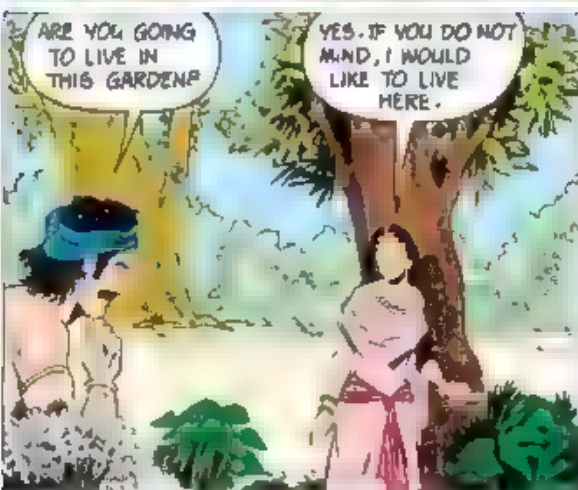


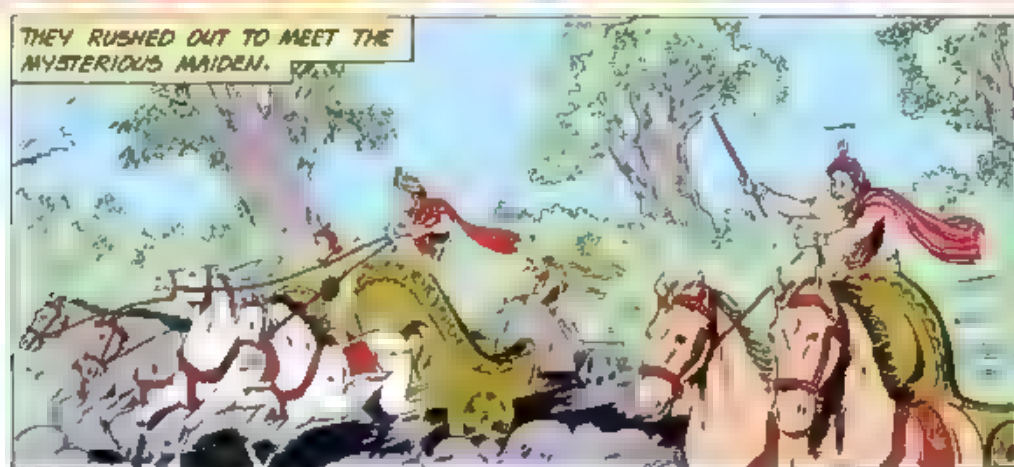
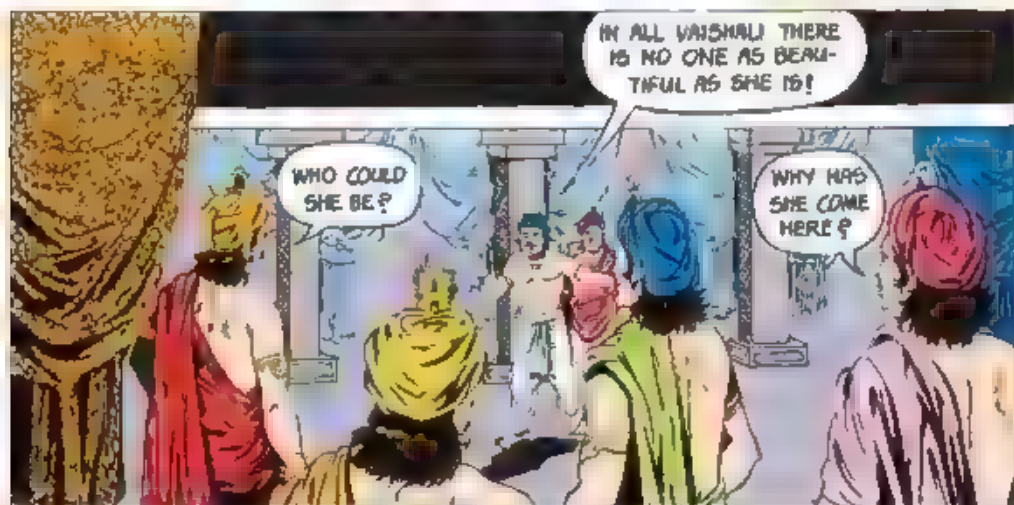
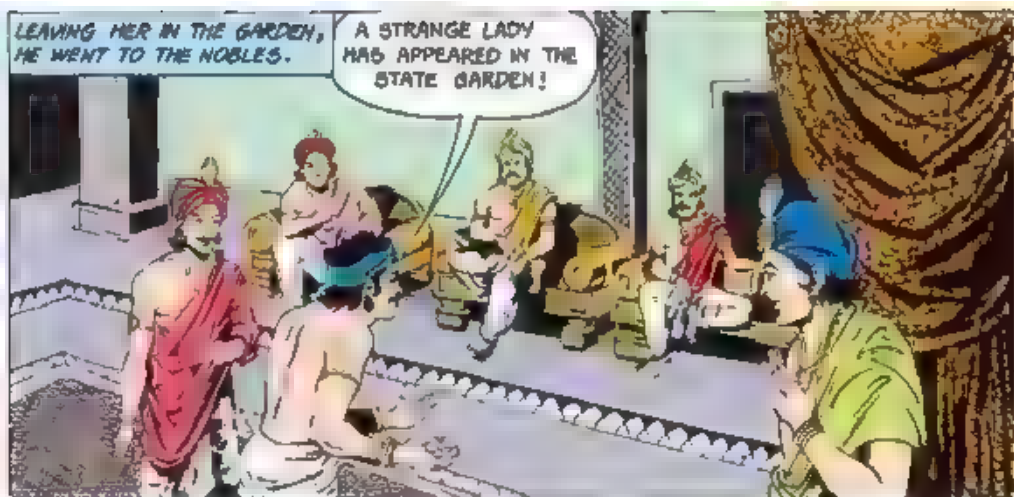
WHAT'S THAT UNDER THE MANGO TREE? WHY, IT'S A LADY! WHAT AN EXTRA-ORDINARY BEAUTY!



HE WENT UP TO HER.

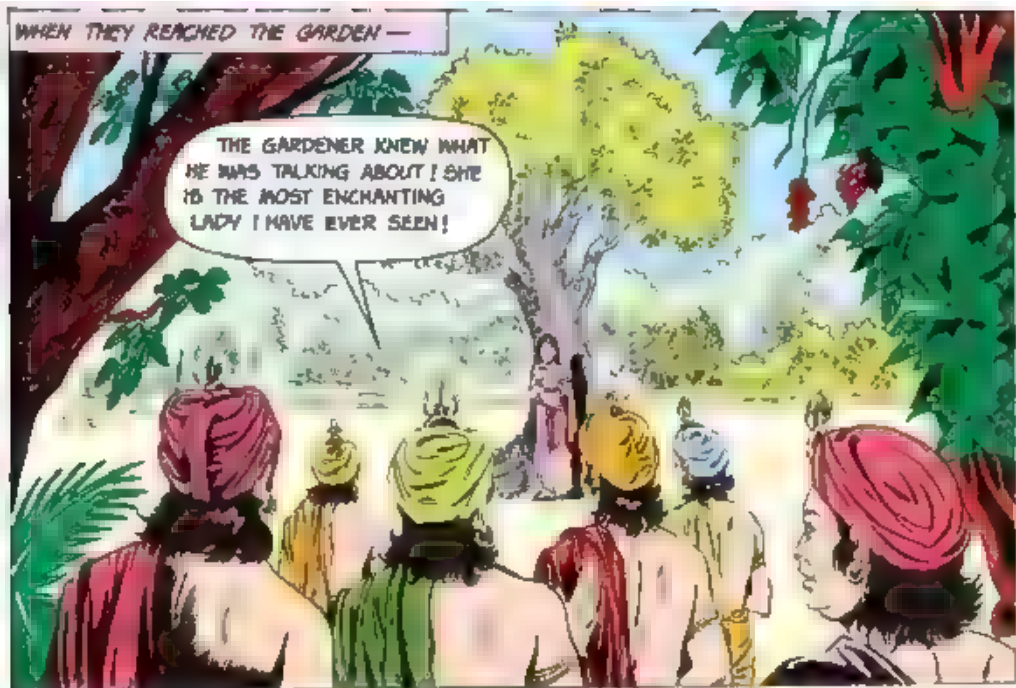
WHO ARE YOU,  
FAIR LADY? WHAT IS  
YOUR NAME? WHERE  
HAVE YOU COME  
FROM? AND WHAT  
IS YOUR  
DESTINATION?





WHEN THEY REACHED THE GARDEN —

THE GARDENER KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT! SHE IS THE MOST ENCHANTING LADY I HAVE EVER SEEN!

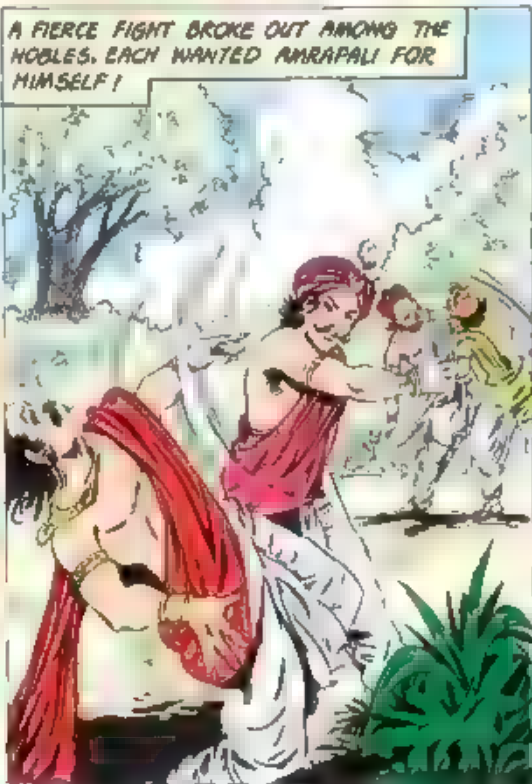


AMRAPALI SHALL BE MINE!

YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE HER FROM ME FIRST!

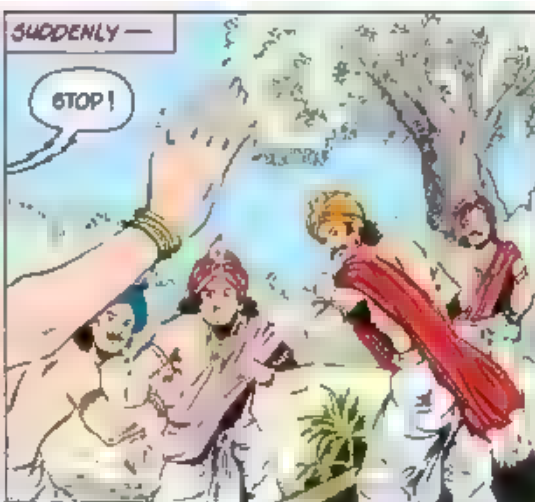


A FIERCE FIGHT BROKE OUT AMONG THE HOBBLES. EACH WANTED AMRAPALI FOR HIMSELF!



• THE MANGO-GIRL, AS SHE WAS FOUND NEAR THE MANGO TREE





THE ELDERS OF VAISHALI, WHO HAD HURRIED TO THE GARDEN ON HEARING THE CLASH, SUPPORTED HER.

A WISE DECISION, INDEED! AMRAPALI CANNOT BELONG TO ONE PERSON. SHE SHALL BELONG TO VAISHALI.

WE AGREE.



AMRAPALI HAS NO PLACE TO LIVE IN. LET US PRESENT THIS GARDEN TO HER

AND WE COULD HAVE A HOUSE BUILT HERE FOR HER.

AS SOON AS THE HOUSE WAS READY —

THIS GARDEN AND THE HOUSE ARE YOURS, AMRAPALI.

I SHALL EVER REMAIN INDEBTED TO THE PEOPLE OF VAISHALI FOR THE LOVE THEY HAVE SHOWN ME.



TO ENTERTAIN THE NOBLES OF VAISHALI, AMRAPALI, AN EXCELLENT DANCER, BEGAN TO GIVE DANCE PERFORMANCES.

SUCH  
PERFECT  
RHYTHM!

SHE IS  
MATCHLESS!



NO OTHER KINGDOM  
CAN BOAST OF SUCH  
AN ACCOMPLISHED  
DANCER!

SHE IS  
INDEED, THE  
PRIDE OF  
VAISHALI!



ONE EVENING, WHEN THE NOBLES  
WERE WATCHING AMRAPALI  
PERFORM, A MESSENGER  
RUSHED IN.

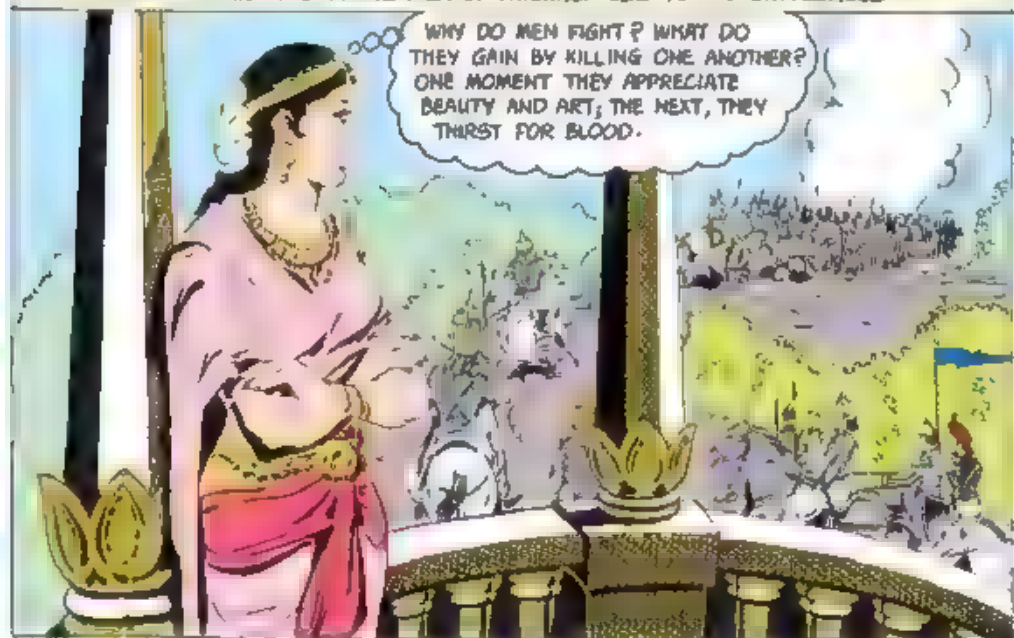
MASTER!! I HAVE  
BAD NEWS!  
VAISHALI IS IN  
DANGER!







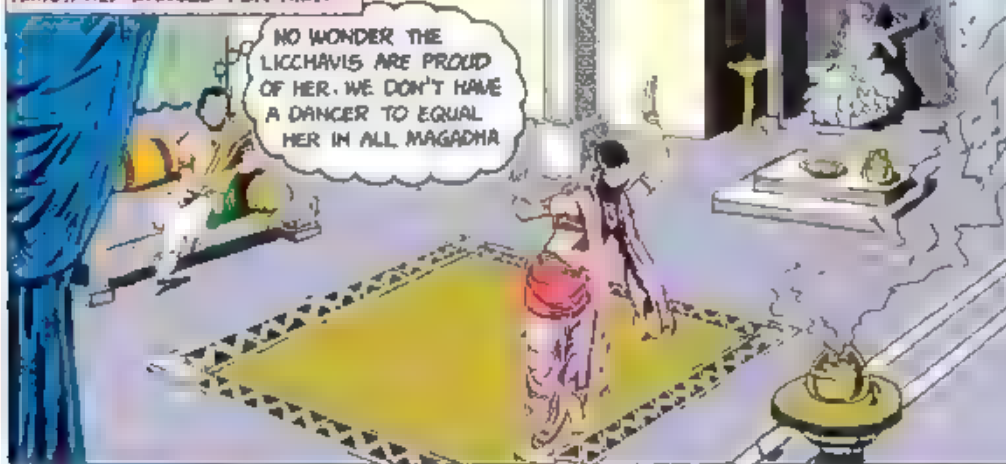
AS AMRAPALI WATCHED THE YOUNG MEN OF VAISHALI RIDE TO THE BATTLEFIELD —



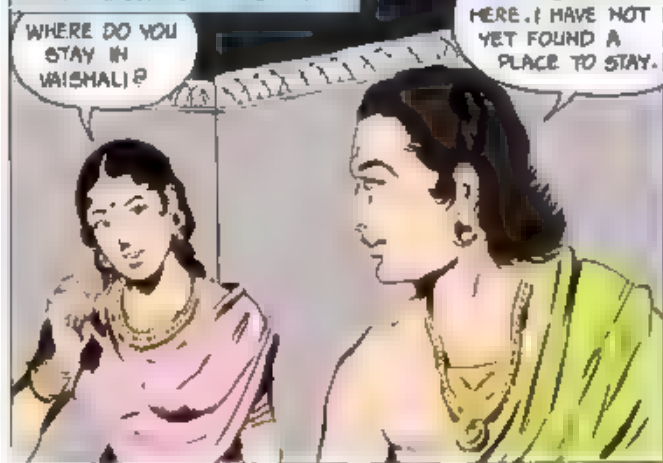
A FEW DAYS LATER, A STRANGER CALLED ON HER.



AMRAPALI DANCED FOR HIM.

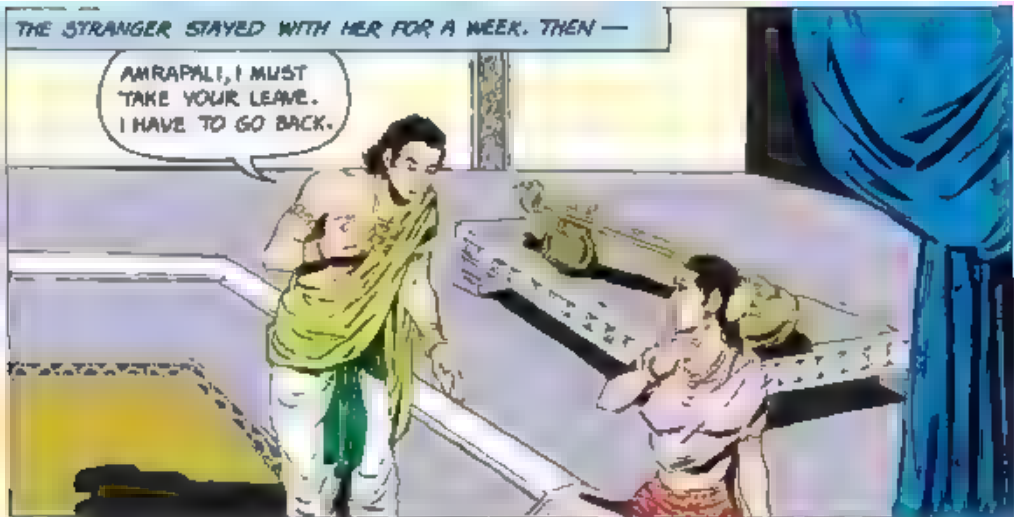


WHEN THE DANCE WAS OVER —



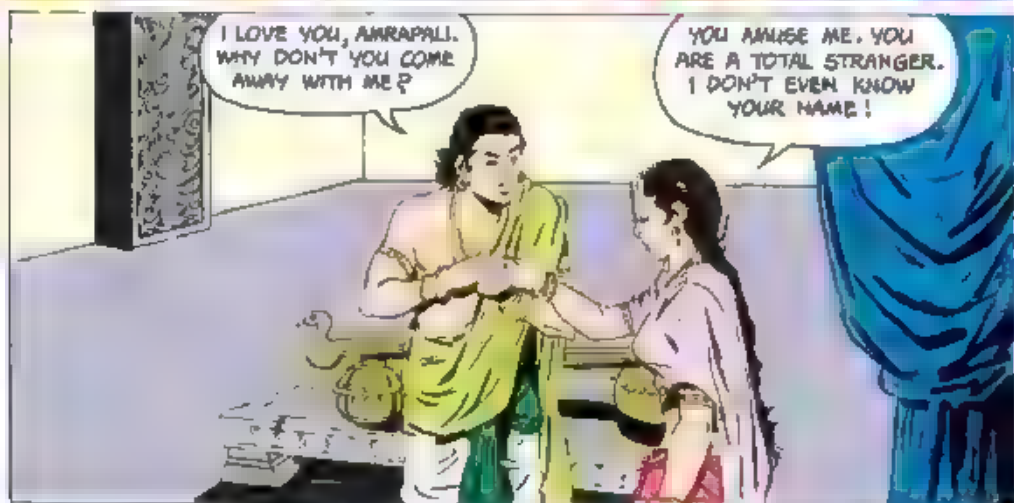
THE STRANGER STAYED WITH HER FOR A WEEK. THEN —

AMRAPALI, I MUST  
TAKE YOUR LEAVE.  
I HAVE TO GO BACK.



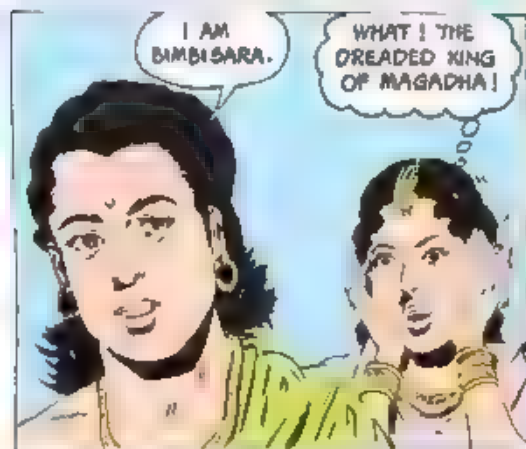
I LOVE YOU, AMRAPALI.  
WHY DON'T YOU COME  
AWAY WITH ME?

YOU AMUSE ME. YOU  
ARE A TOTAL STRANGER.  
I DON'T EVEN KNOW  
YOUR NAME!

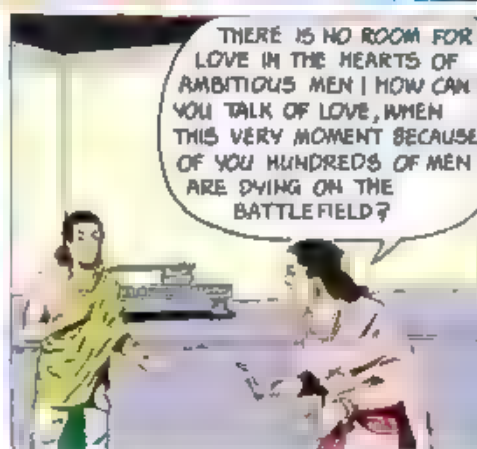


I AM  
BIMBISARA.

WHAT! THE  
DREADED KING  
OF MAGADHA!



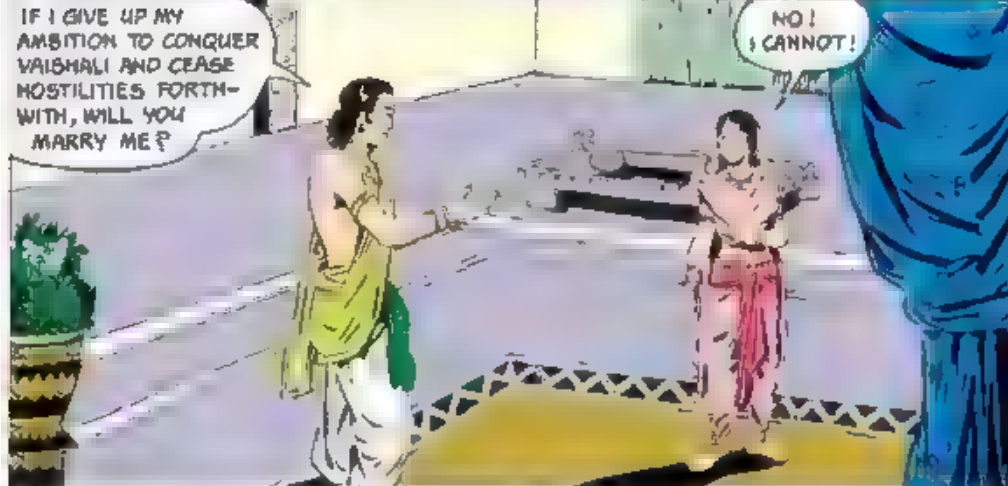
THERE IS NO ROOM FOR  
LOVE IN THE HEARTS OF  
AMBITIOUS MEN! HOW CAN  
YOU TALK OF LOVE, WHEN  
THIS VERY MOMENT BECAUSE  
OF YOU HUNDREDS OF MEN  
ARE DYING ON THE  
BATTLEFIELD?





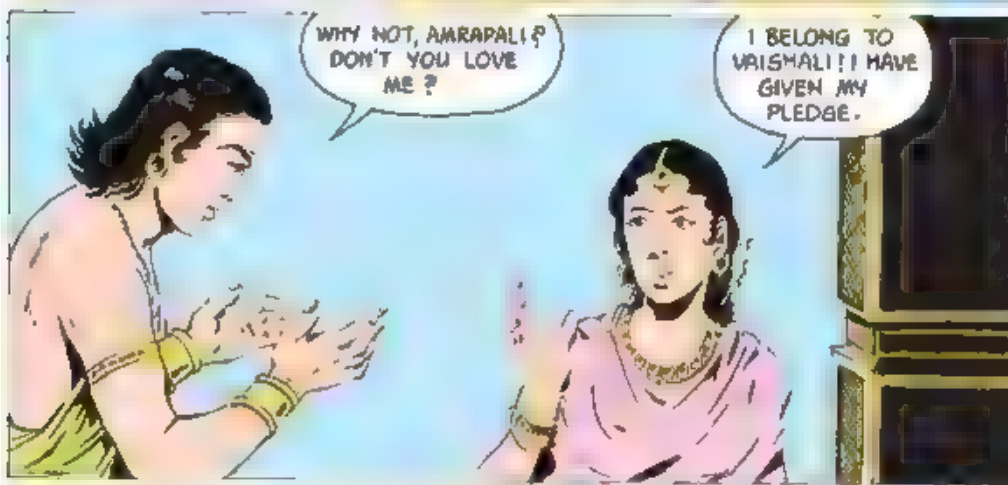
IF I GIVE UP MY AMBITION TO CONQUER VAISHALI AND CEASE HOSTILITIES FORTHWITH, WILL YOU MARRY ME?

NO!  
I CANNOT!



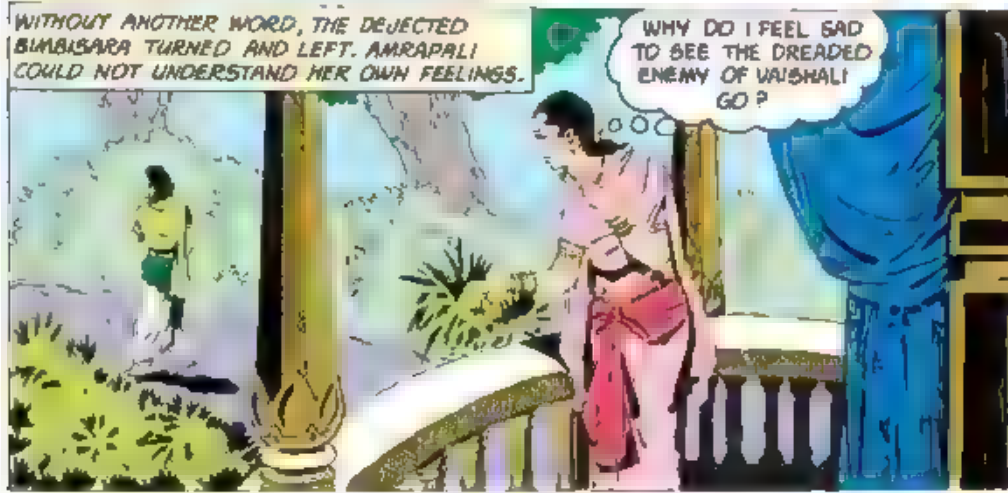
WHY NOT, AMRAPALI?  
DON'T YOU LOVE ME?

I BELONG TO  
VAISHALI!! I HAVE  
GIVEN MY PLEDGE.



WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE DEJECTED BIMBASARA TURNED AND LEFT. AMRAPALI COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HER OWN FEELINGS.

WHY DO I FEEL SAD  
TO SEE THE DREADED  
ENEMY OF VAISHALI  
GO?



A FEW DAYS LATER —

AMRAPALI, WE  
ARE BACK.

THAT CONWARD,  
BIMBISARA,  
CALLED OFF  
THE BATTLE.



WHY DID HE  
DO IT? WAS  
IT FOR LOVE  
OF ME?



AMRAPALI,  
WE  
MISSED  
YOU.

WE WOULD  
LIKE TO SEE YOU  
COMPLETE THE  
DANCE YOU BEGAN,  
WHEN WE LEFT.

YOU SHALL,  
IN A  
MOMENT.



AS AMRAPALI DANCED —

WHAT IS WRONG  
WITH HER TODAY?

HER MOVEMENTS  
ARE LIFELESS.



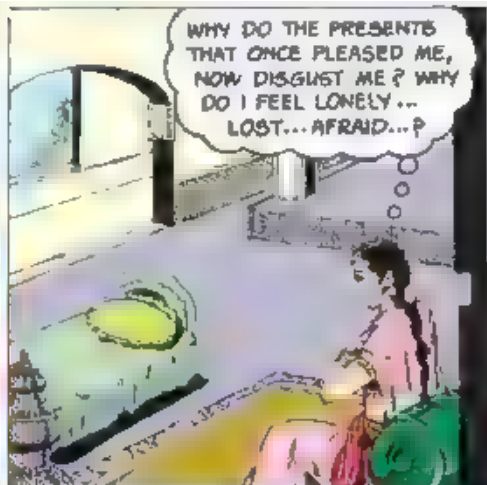
AS THE NOBLES LEFT FOR  
THEIR HOMES —

AMRAPALI'S  
PERFORMANCE  
WAS A FAILURE  
TODAY.

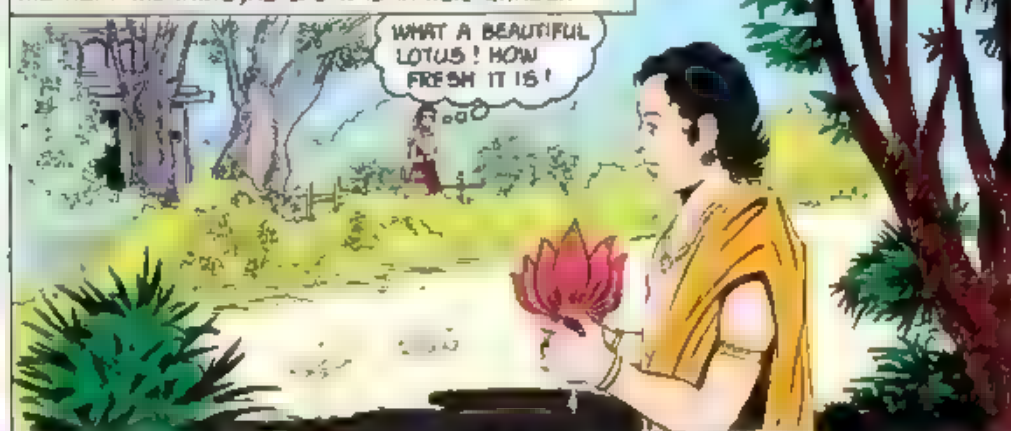
IT WAS EVIDENT  
THAT HER HEART  
WAS NOT IN IT!



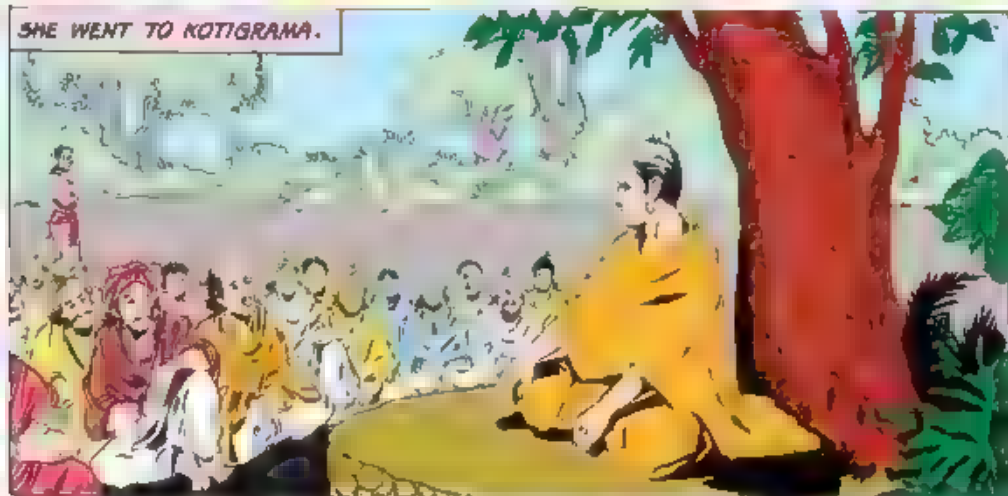
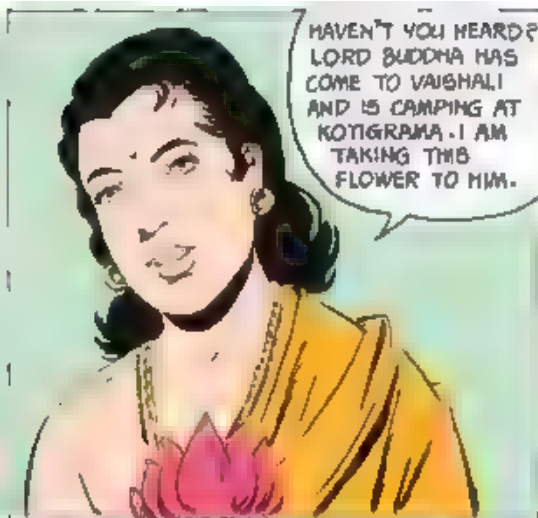
MEANWHILE, AMRAPALI SAT BROODING.



THE NEXT MORNING, AS SHE WAS IN HER GARDEN —








SHE BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE A NEW KIND OF JOY.



SHE WENT TO KOTIGRAMA DAILY. ONE DAY —




SOON IT WAS TIME FOR LORD BUDDHA TO LEAVE VAISHALI.



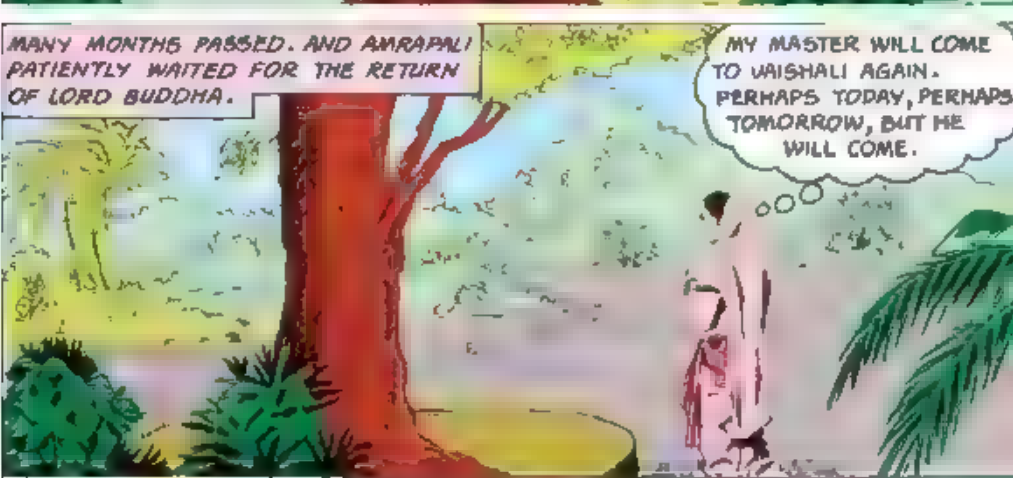
WHEN WILL  
I SEE YOU  
AGAIN,  
MASTER?

EVEN AFTER LORD BUDDHA HAD LEFT, AMRAPALI CONTINUED TO VISIT KOTIGRAMA EVERY EVENING.



THIS IS WHERE THE  
MASTER USED TO SIT.  
I CAN STILL FEEL HIS  
PRESENCE HERE.

MANY MONTHS PASSED. AND AMRAPALI PATIENTLY WAITED FOR THE RETURN OF LORD BUDDHA.



MY MASTER WILL COME  
TO VAISHALI AGAIN.  
PERHAPS TODAY, PERHAPS  
TOMORROW, BUT HE  
WILL COME.



ONE EVENING —

MY MASTER  
IS BACK! I CAN'T  
BELIEVE MY  
EYES.

SHE RAN UP TO LORD BUDDHA AND FELL AT HIS FEET.

ARISE, MY  
CHILD.

AND BEFORE SHE COULD STOP  
HERSELF, THE WORDS POURED  
OUT.

MASTER, WILL  
YOU HONOUR ME  
BY EATING AT  
MY HOUSE  
TOMORROW?

I WILL COME,  
MY CHILD.

ANRAPALI SPED HOMEWARDS  
'TO WAISHALI, TO PREPARE FOR  
THE COMING OF HER MASTER.

SUDDENLY, A FEW CHARIOTS CARRYING THE NOBLES OF VAISHALI, CAME CHARGING FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.



WHERE ARE YOU SPEEDING TO?



WE HEARD THAT LORD BUDDHA HAS ARRIVED. WE ARE OFF TO INVITE HIM TO EAT WITH US AT THE PALACE TOMORROW.

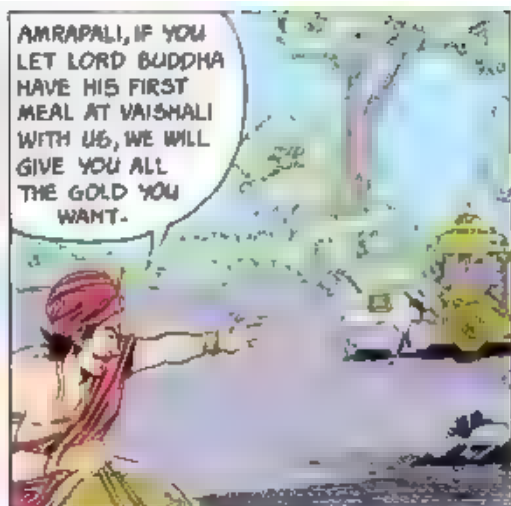
BUT THE LORD HAS ALREADY AGREED TO DINE AT MY HOUSE TOMORROW.



WE HAVE BEEN FORESTALLED!

NOT ALL IS LOST. NOT YET. SHE CAN EASILY BE BOUGHT OFF.





AS AMRAPALI DROVE AWAY —



LATER, AT KOTIGRAMA —





THE NEXT DAY, LORD BUDDHA WENT TO AMRAPALI'S HOUSE.

I HAVE COME, AMRAPALI.

LORD, YOU DO ME GREAT HONOUR.

LATER —

LORD, WHY DO I FEEL SUCH IMMENSE JOY AS I SERVE YOU?

AMRAPALI, YOU HAVE BEGUN TO KNOW THE JOY OF GIVING.

LATER —

LORD, PERMIT ME TO GRANT MY GARDEN AND HOUSE TO THE SANGHA.

SO BE IT, CHILD. IT COULD BE USED AS A MONASTERY.

THEN, LEAVING BEHIND HER THE WORLDLY LIFE AND ITS HEARTACHES...

...AMRAPALI BEGAN TO LEAD A LIFE OF RENUNCIATION, FINDING AT LAST THE PEACE OF MIND SHE HAD CRAVED.

# UPAGUPTA



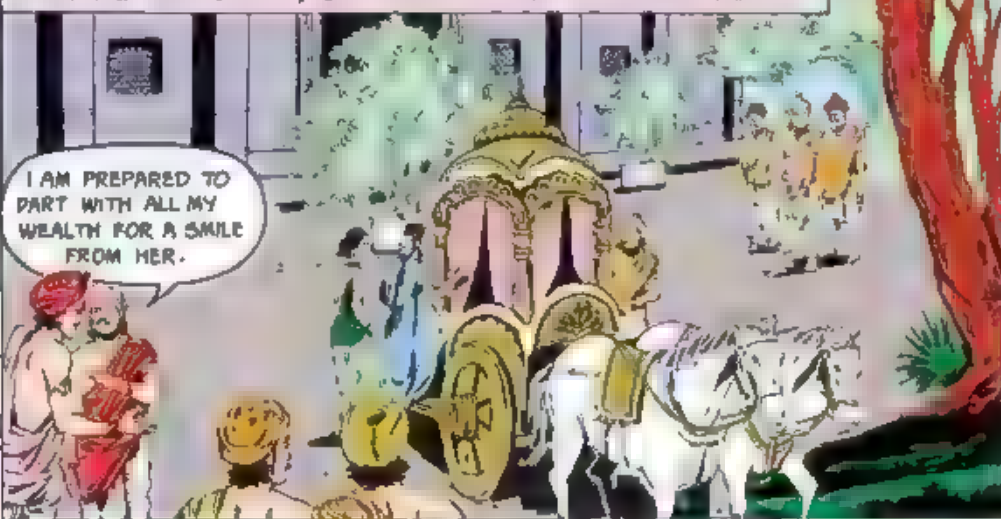
LONG, LONG AGO IN ANCIENT MATHURA, THERE LIVED A DANCER CALLED VASAVADATTA, WHO WAS FAMED FOR HER BEAUTY AND HER ART.

WHAT A PERFECT FIGURE! WHAT A CHARMING APPEARANCE! WHAT GRACEFUL MOVEMENTS...

... AND WHAT A HARD HEART! SHE'S UNIQUE, INDEED!

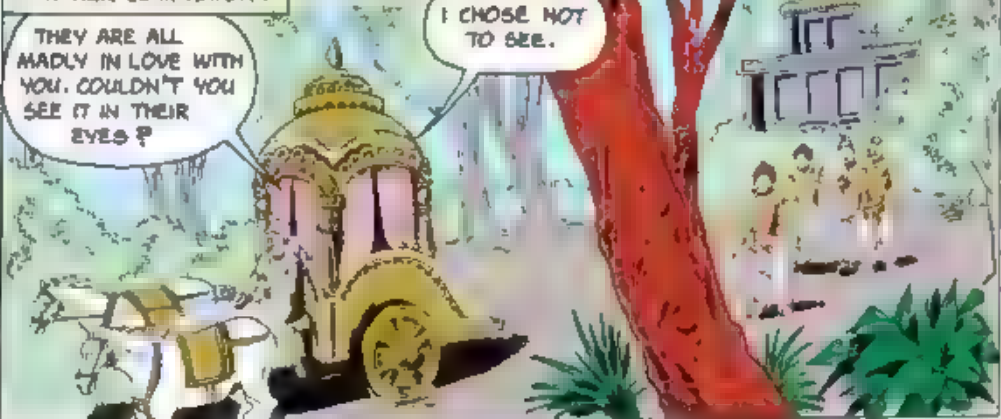
YOU SEEM BITTER. HAVE YOU TOO BEEN SPURNED BY HER?

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE, AS VASAVADATTA LEFT THE TOWN HALL —



I AM PREPARED TO PART WITH ALL MY WEALTH FOR A SMILE FROM HER.

WITH NOT SO MUCH AS A GLANCE AT HER ADMIRERS, VASAVADATTA SAT IN HER CHARIOT AND RODE HOME WITH HER COMPANION.



THEY ARE ALL MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU. COULDN'T YOU SEE IT IN THEIR EYES?

I CHOSE NOT TO SEE.

WHY, VASAVADATTA? WHY DON'T YOU MARRY ONE OF THEM? IS THERE NOT A SINGLE ONE WHOM YOU DEEM WORTHY OF YOUR LOVE?

NO! NOT ONE OF THEM POSSESSES WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR.





ONE EVENING, AS VASAVADATTA WAS STANDING IN THE BALCONY OF HER MANSION, SHE SAW A YOUNG MONK PASS BY IN THE STREET BELOW.

QUICK! RUN DOWN AND INVITE THAT MONK IN.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. VASAVADATTA SHOWING SOME INTEREST IN A MAN!



WHEN VASAVADATTA WAS TOLD OF THE MONK'S REACTION —

PERHAPS, HE HESITATES TO VISIT ME BECAUSE HE IS POOR AND CAN'T BRING ME GIFTS. TELL HIM I DON'T WANT ANYTHING FROM HIM.



HER FRIEND WENT BACK TO UPAGUPTA.

O MONK, MY FRIEND DOES NOT CRAVE FOR GIFTS OR RICHES PLEASE VISIT HER.

NO, I CANNOT. IT IS NOT YET TIME TO VISIT VASAVADATTA.

AND UPAGUPTA WALKED AWAY.

VASAVADATTA WAS STUNNED.

WHY SHOULD THE ONLY MAN I CHOOSE TO LOVE, SHUN ME?

SHE STOPPED GIVING DANCE PERFORMANCES, MUCH TO THE ANNOYANCE OF THE PEOPLE OF MATHURA.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH VASAVADATTA?

LIFE IN MATHURA HAS LOST ITS CHARM. HOW COULD SHE BE SO CRUEL TO US!

MEANWHILE, HER FRIEND WAS WORRIED.

SHE SITS ALONE, BROODING OVER THAT HEARTLESS MONK. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR HER HEALTH AND LOOKS. I MUST FIND SOMETHING TO DISTRACT HER.

A FEW DAYS LATER —

A FAMOUS SCULPTOR  
IS HOLDING AN EXHIBITION  
OF HIS WORKS.  
LET US GO AND SEE IT,  
VASAVADATTA.

ALL RIGHT,  
IF YOU  
INSIST.

AT THE SHOW, VASAVADATTA FORGOT  
HER SORROW FOR A WHILE.

SUCH EXQUISITE  
WORKMANSHIP!

WILL YOU  
SELL THIS  
TO ME?

YOU MIGHT  
FIND THE  
PRICE TOO  
HEAVY.

WHATEVER IT  
MAY COST, I AM  
PREPARED TO  
BUY IT. QUOTE  
YOUR PRICE

IT'S YOURS, IF YOU  
AGREE TO DANCE  
AGAIN.



VASAVADATTA HESITATED —

TO... DANCE...

YOU CAN'T GO BACK ON YOUR WORD. YOU HAVE AGREED TO PAY WHATEVER PRICE HE ASKS.

VASAVADATTA RELUCTANTLY AGREED.

THE NEXT EVENING, PEOPLE FLOCKED TO THE TOWN HALL.

AT LAST WE WILL SEE VASAVADATTA DANCE AGAIN!

THANKS TO THE CHIEF SCULPTOR OF OUR CITY, IT WAS INDEED A CLEVER BARGAIN!

AT THE END OF THE PERFORMANCE, VASAVADATTA RECEIVED THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE. BUT INSTEAD OF MAKING HER HAPPY, IT ONLY MADE HER BROOD ALL THE MORE.

WHY DID THAT MONK SHUN ME WHEN THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LONG FOR A SIGHT OF ME?

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, THE CHIEF SCULPTOR BEGAN TO VISIT THE DANCER TO CAPTURE HER IMAGE IN STONE.



MY ART WILL DIE WITH ME. BUT YOURS WILL LAST FOR CENTURIES.

MY TALENT, WHICH BRINGS SO MUCH HAPPINESS TO YOU, ONLY MAKES MY ENVOUS RIVALS HATE ME.



A FEW DAYS LATER, THE SCULPTOR SUDDENLY VANISHED.



PERHAPS HE IS OUT OF TOWN.

WHY DOESN'T HE COME? THE WORK IS YET TO BE COMPLETED. IT'S THREE DAYS SINCE HE LAST CAME!

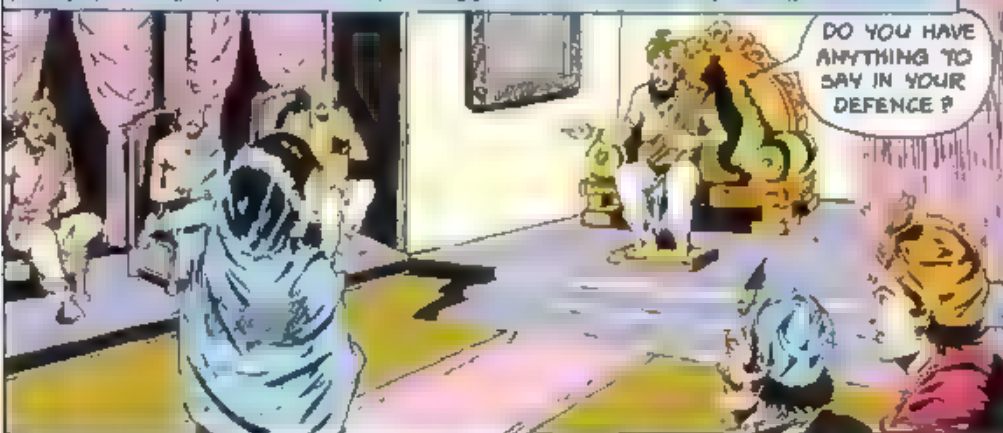
MEANWHILE, HIS FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TOO WERE SEARCHING FOR THE CHIEF SCULPTOR.



HAVE HIS RIVALS DONE AWAY WITH HIM?

HE WAS LAST SEEN ENTERING THE HOUSE OF VASAVADATTA, THREE DAYS AGO.

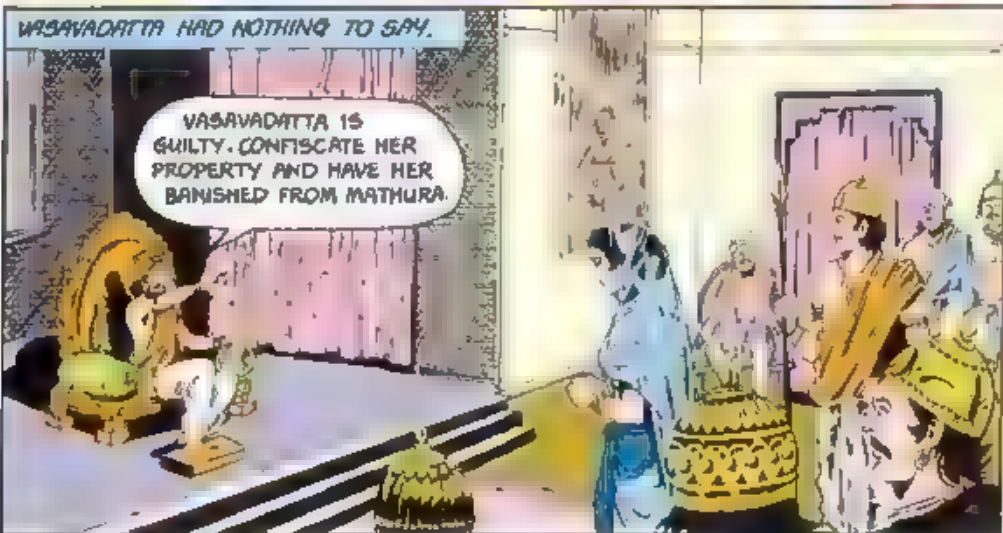
LATER, THE BODY OF THE MISSING SCULPTOR WAS FOUND BURIED NOT FAR FROM VASAVADATTA'S HOUSE. SHE WAS CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF THE SCULPTOR.



DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENCE?

VASAVADATTA HAD NOTHING TO SAY.

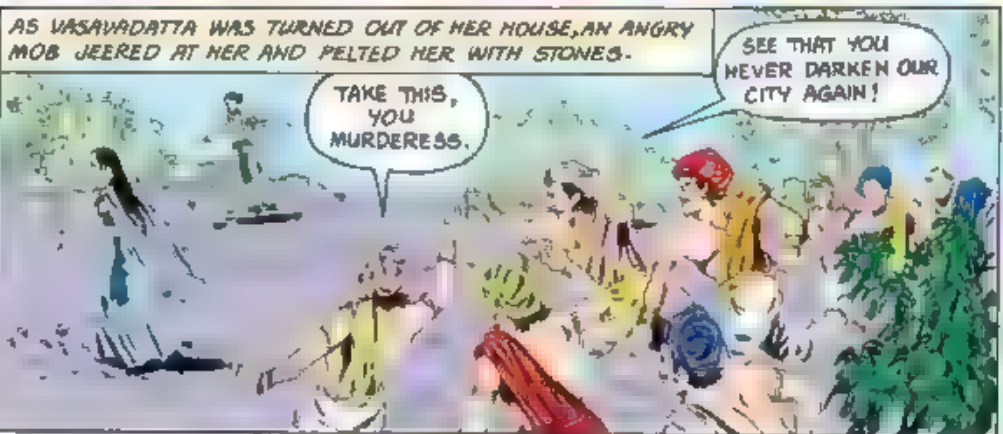
VASAVADATTA IS GUILTY. CONFISCATE HER PROPERTY AND HAVE HER BANISHED FROM MATHURA.



AS VASAVADATTA WAS TURNED OUT OF HER HOUSE, AN ANGRY MOB JEERED AT HER AND PELTED HER WITH STONES.


TAKE THIS, YOU MURDERESS.

SEE THAT YOU NEVER DARKEN OUR CITY AGAIN!





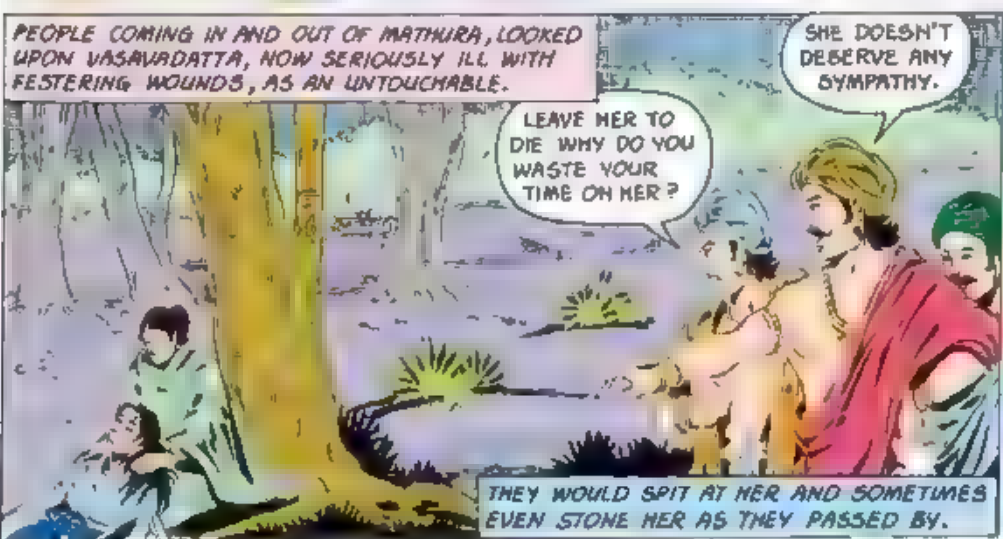
BLEEDING PROFUSELY, VASAVADATTA REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF MATHURA AND FOUND REFUGE IN A CREMATORIUM.



VASAVADATTA, I KNOW YOU ARE INNOCENT! THEY HAVE DELIBERATELY DONE THIS TO YOU.

FRIEND, LET US NOT BLAME ANYONE.

PEOPLE COMING IN AND OUT OF MATHURA, LOOKED UPON VASAVADATTA, NOW SERIOUSLY ILL, WITH FESTERING WOUNDS, AS AN UNTOUCHABLE.

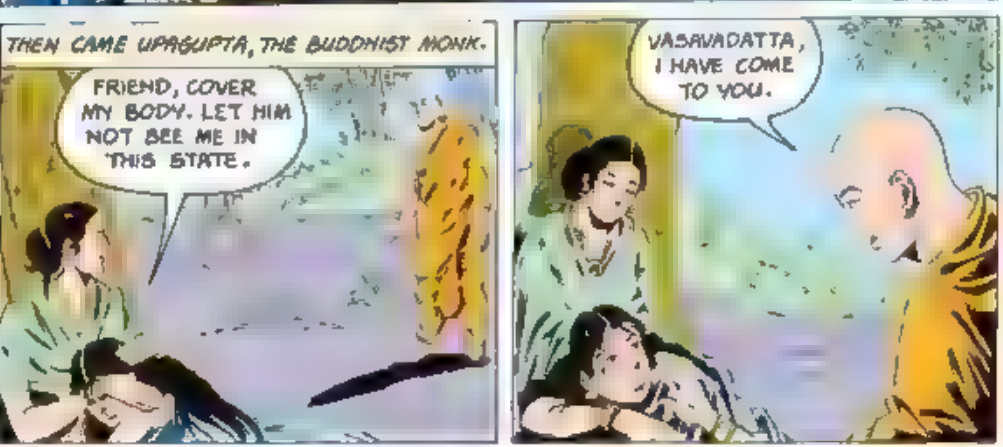


SHE DOESN'T DESERVE ANY SYMPATHY.

LEAVE HER TO DIE WHY DO YOU WASTE YOUR TIME ON HER?

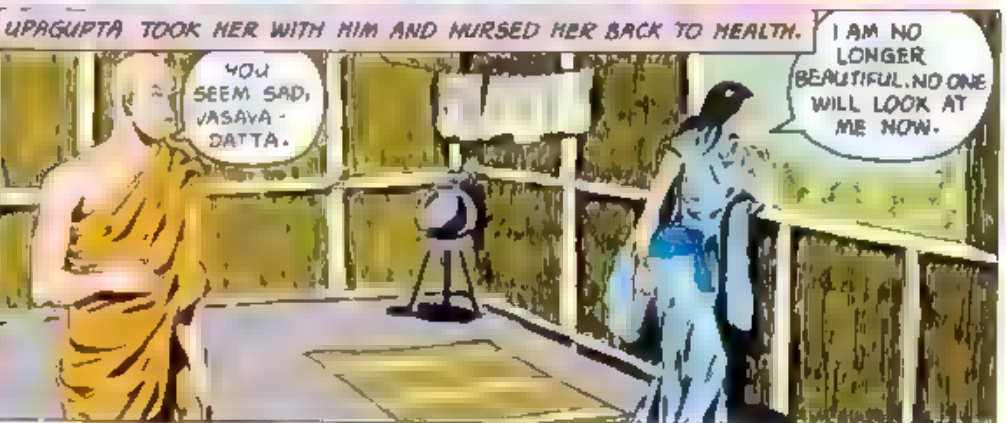
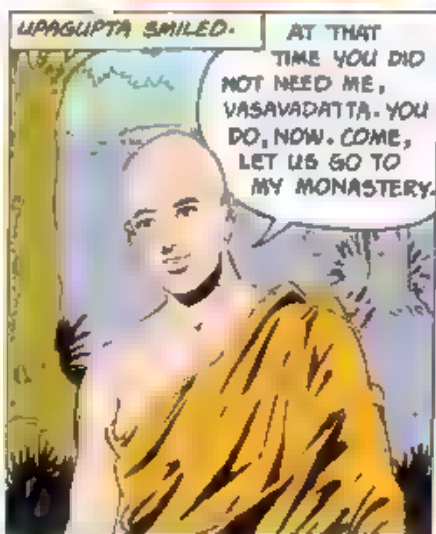
THEY WOULD SPIT AT HER AND SOMETIMES EVEN STONE HER AS THEY PASSED BY.

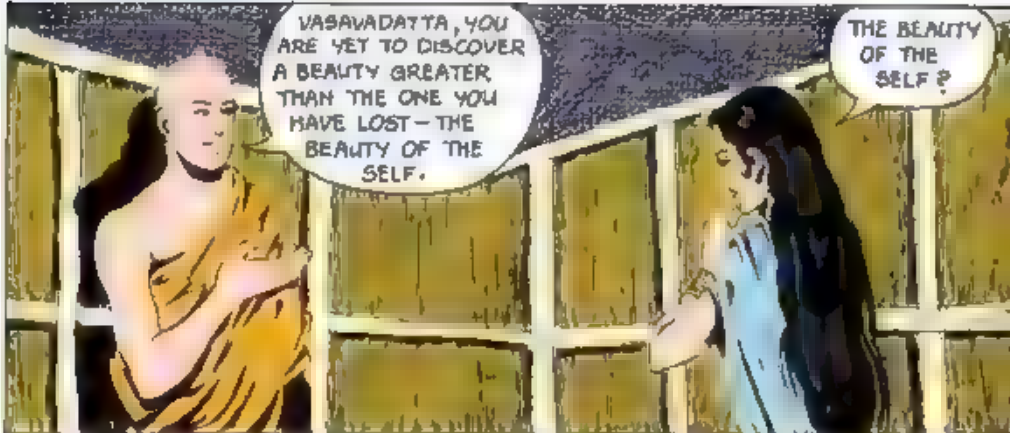
THEN CAME UPAGUPTA, THE BUDDHIST MONK.



FRIEND, COVER MY BODY. LET HIM NOT SEE ME IN THIS STATE.

VASAVADATTA, I HAVE COME TO YOU.





VASAVADATTA, YOU ARE YET TO DISCOVER A BEAUTY GREATER THAN THE ONE YOU HAVE LOST—THE BEAUTY OF THE SELF.

THE BEAUTY OF THE SELF?

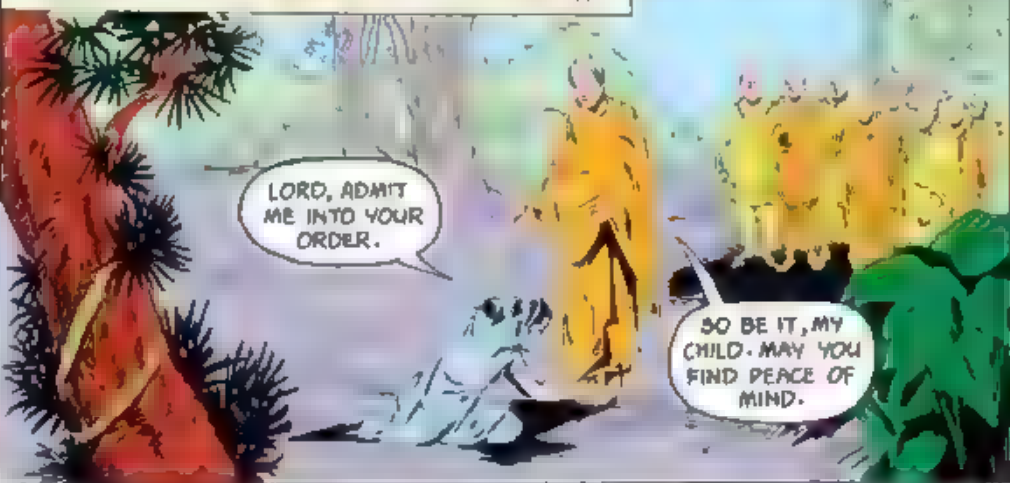
CURIOUS TO KNOW MORE, SHE BEGAN TO ATTEND THE DISCOURSES OF LORD BUDDHA.

YOU CAN'T CALL EVEN THE BODY YOUR OWN. WHEN THE BODY IS CAST AWAY IT BECOMES FOOD FOR OTHERS. LIGHT THE LAMP WITHIN YOU, AND ONLY THEN WILL YOU FIND PEACE.



LIGHT THE LAMP WITHIN YOU ... PEACE ...

VASAVADATTA FELL AT THE FEET OF LORD BUDDHA.



LORD, ADMIT ME INTO YOUR ORDER.

SO BE IT, MY CHILD. MAY YOU FIND PEACE OF MIND.





# THE ACROBAT

A COLLECTION OF BUDDHIST TALES



# THE ACROBAT

THE CITY OF RAJAGRIHA WAS BUZZING WITH EXCITEMENT.

HAVE  
YOU HEARD?  
THEY ARE  
COMING!

YES. IT'S  
BEEN A YEAR  
SINCE WE SAW  
THEM LAST.

THEY ARE COMING!  
THEY ARE COMING!  
THE ACROBATS ARE  
COMING!

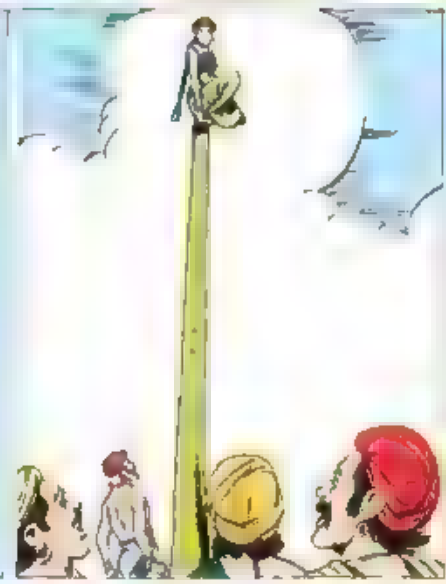
AND A FEW DAYS LATER, RAJAGRIHA  
JUBILANTLY WELCOMED ITS VISITORS.



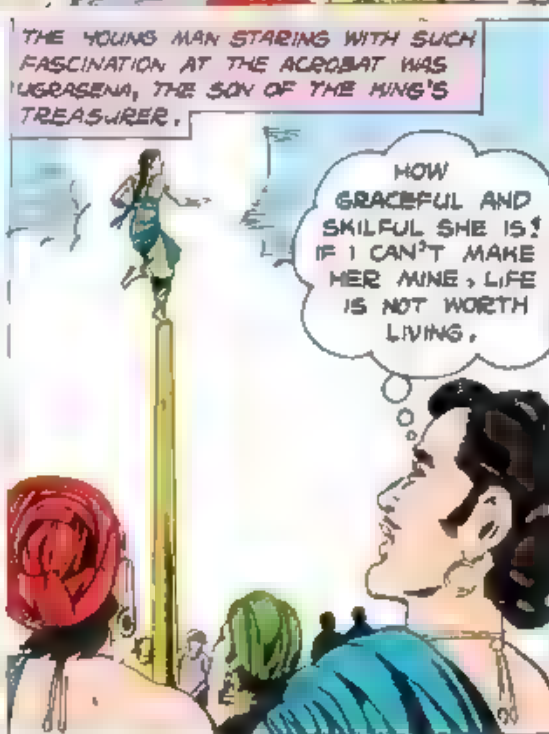
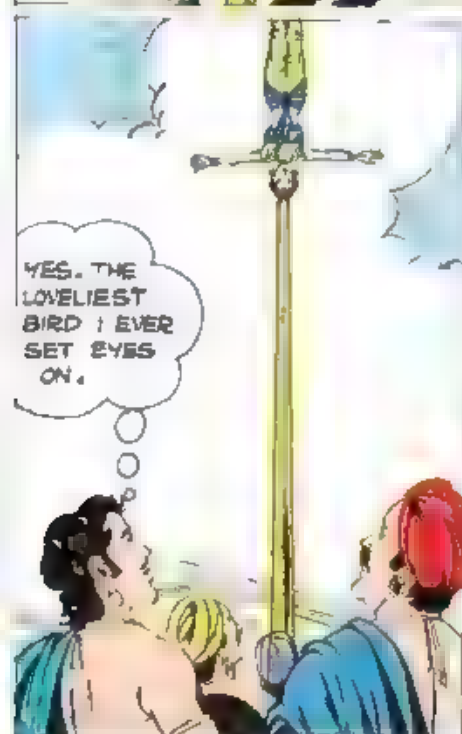
CROWDS GATHERED...



...AND THOSE AT THE VERY BACK STOOD ON THEIR TOES TO GET A BETTER VIEW.







UGRASENA WENT HOME AND FLUNG HIMSELF ON HIS BED.

FATHER, MOTHER—I WANT TO MARRY THE ACROBAT WE SAW TODAY. IF I CAN'T MARRY HER, I SHALL STARVE MYSELF TO DEATH.

MY DEAR SON, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WHAT CAN YOU HAVE IN COMMON WITH AN ACROBAT? WE WILL FIND YOU A GIRL... ONE WORTHY OF YOU...

IT'S HER OR NONE! I SHALL NOT EVEN LOOK AT ANOTHER GIRL.

THE HELPLESS TREASURER AND HIS WIFE SENT UGRASENA'S FRIEND TO THE ACROBAT'S FATHER.

MY FRIEND WISHES TO MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER. AS A MARRIAGE PORTION, HERE IS ALL THE GOLD YOU MIGHT DESIRE.

FOR SHAME! ARE YOU ASKING ME TO SELL MY DAUGHTER?

IF YOUR FRIEND IS WILLING TO TRAVEL WITH US, WHEREVER WE GO, HE MAY MARRY HER.

THE TREASURER AND HIS WIFE WERE SHOCKED TO HEAR THIS.

SON,  
SURELY YOU WILL  
NOT LEAVE US TO  
GO TRAVELLING WITH  
AN ACROBAT?

I WILL,  
FOR SHE MEANS  
EVERYTHING TO  
ME NOW.

SO UGRASEVA MARRIED THE ACROBAT...

...AND JOINED THE TROUPE.



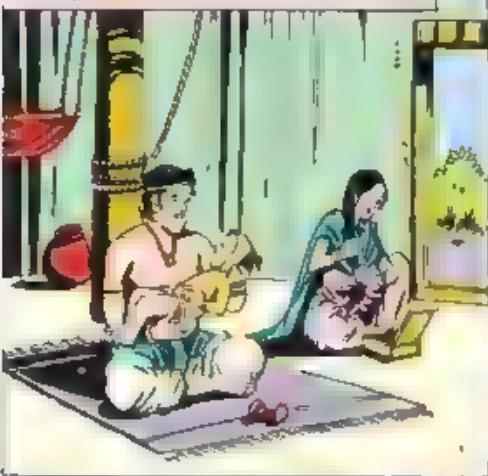
BEING THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE TROUPE UNSKILLED IN  
ACROBATICS, HE MADE HIMSELF USEFUL IN OTHER WAYS...



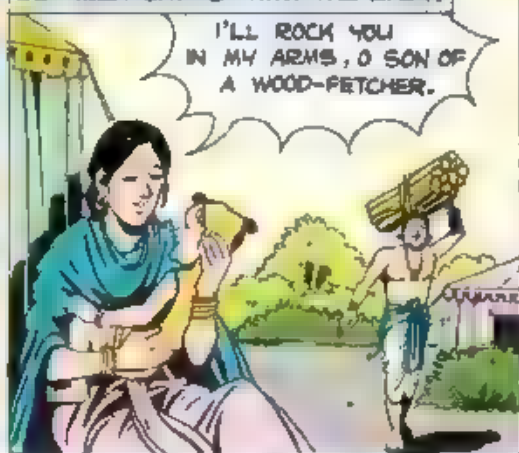
...AND WAS CONTENT WITH HIS SIMPLE LIFE.



SOON, A SON WAS BORN TO THEM.



HIS WIFE SPENT ALL HER TIME BETWEEN SHOWS WITH THE BABY.



I'LL ROCK YOU  
IN MY ARMS, O SON OF  
A WOOD-FETCHER.

CLOSE YOUR EYES  
AND SLEEP, O SON OF  
A WATER-CARRIER.



LET THE JOLT OF  
THE CART ROCK YOU  
TO SLEEP, O SON OF  
A CART-DRIVER.



WOMAN, ARE  
YOU REFERRING  
TO ME, WHEN  
YOU SING THOSE  
SONGS?

YES...  
I AM.



YOU ARE TRIFLING  
WITH ME, I SHALL  
LEAVE YOU, AND  
GO AWAY.

DO AS  
YOU THINK  
BEST.





IT... IT'S  
HER SKILL AS  
AN ACROBAT THAT  
MAKES HER SO BOLD...  
SO VAIN... SO  
INDIFFERENT !



I WANT  
TO BECOME AN  
ACROBAT.

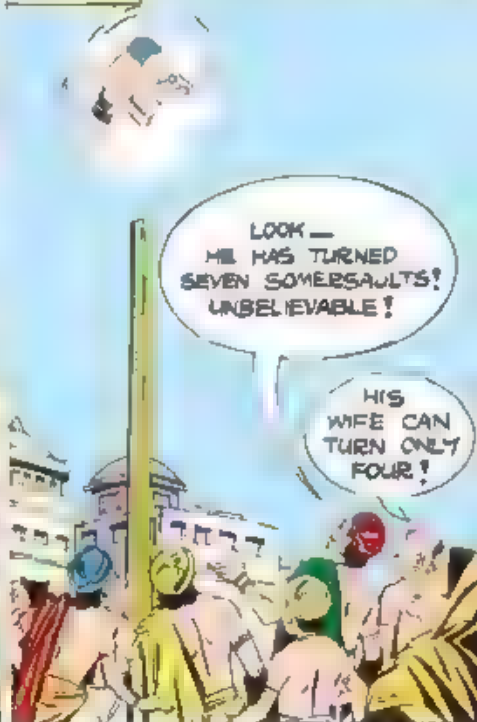
I'LL  
TEACH YOU  
THE SKILLS.

UGRASENA MADE RAPID PROGRESS IN  
HIS NEW PROFESSION AND SOON —

WHEN UGRASENA DISPLAYED HIS  
FEATS —



I PRESENT  
BEFORE YOU A NEW  
PERFORMER — MY  
SON-IN-LAW.



LOOK —  
HE HAS TURNED  
SEVEN SOMERSAULTS!  
UNBELIEVABLE !

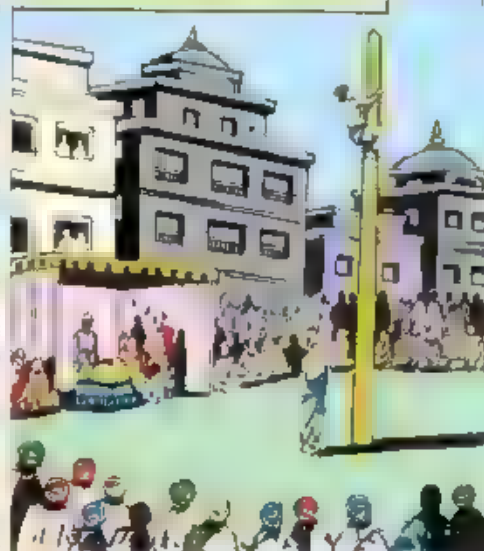
HIS  
WIFE CAN  
TURN ONLY  
FOUR !

SOON AT RAJAGRIHA, NEWS SPREAD THAT THE ACROBATS WERE RETURNING AND, WITH THEM, THE TREASURER'S SON.

ON THE APPOINTED DAY, THE ENTIRE CITY GATHERED IN THE SQUARE TO WATCH UGRASENA PERFORM.

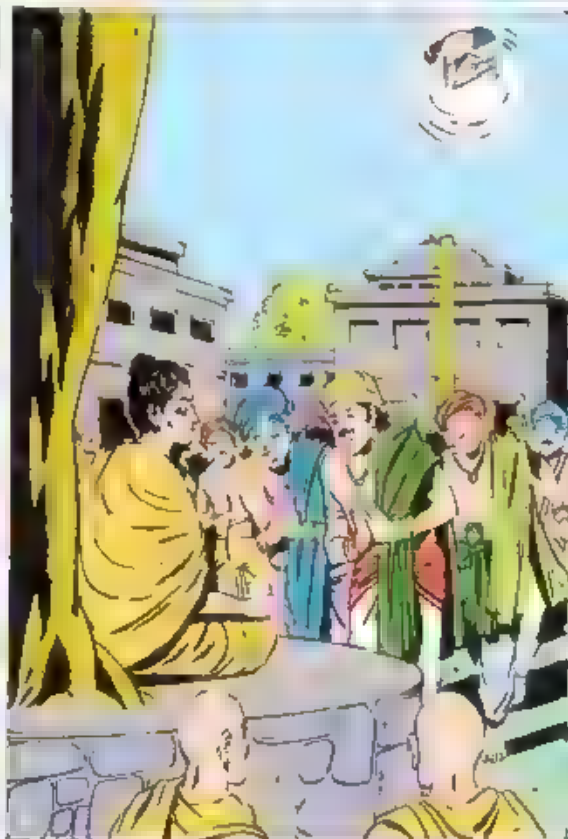
IT SEEMS UGRASENA WILL PERFORM THE FEAT OF TURNING FOURTEEN SOMERSAULTS IN THE AIR!

IMPOSSIBLE! YOU ARE JOKING!



JUST AS HE TURNED THE FIRST SOMERSAULT —

LOOK! THE HOLY TEACHER!





WHEN HE CAME BACK TO POSITION—



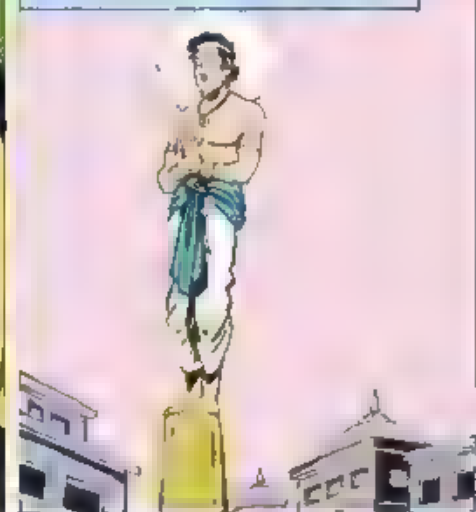
IT... IT IS  
BUDDHA!



AS USRASENA GAZED AT BUDDHA...

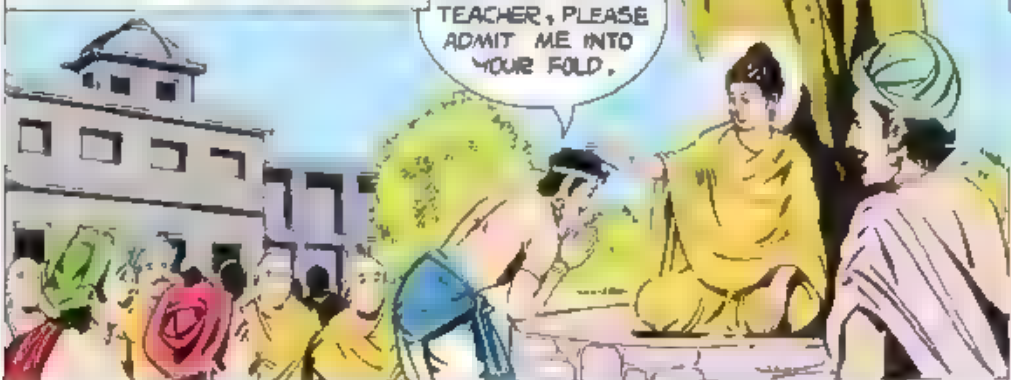


...A CHANGE CAME OVER HIM.



HE SLID DOWN THE POLE AND—

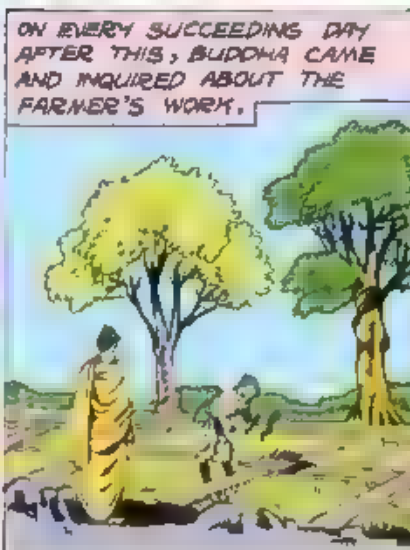
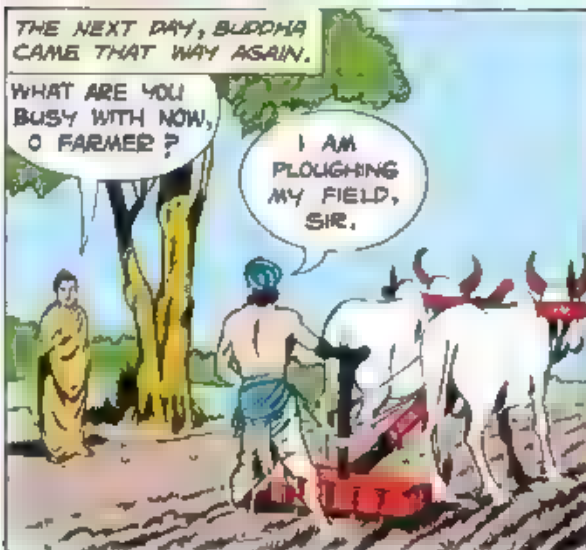
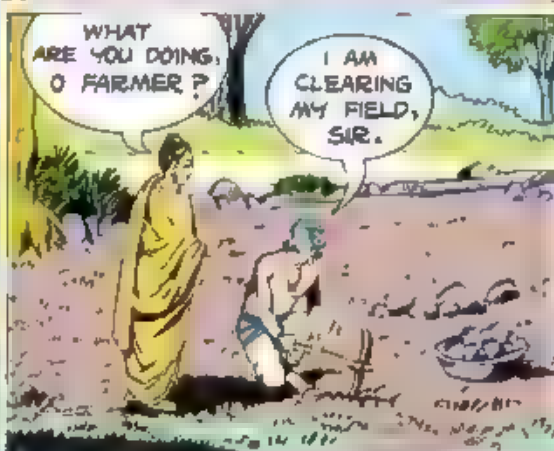
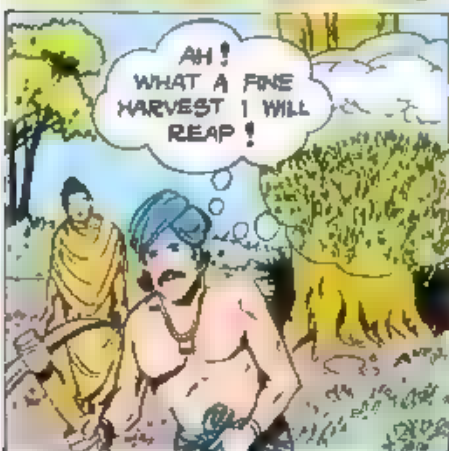
MOST VENERABLE  
TEACHER, PLEASE  
ADMIT ME INTO  
YOUR FOLD.



# THE HARVEST



ONCE A FARMER WAS AT WORK IN HIS FIELD WHEN BUDDHA CAME BY.



THEN ONE DAY—

SIR, I FIND THAT FROM THE DAY I BEGAN TO CLEAR MY FIELD, YOU HAVE BEEN SHOWING A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN MY WORK.



SO WHEN MY CROP IS HARVESTED, I AM GOING TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.



FOR, YOU ARE NOW MY PARTNER.



THE DAYS PASSED AND THE FARMER'S CROPS RIPENED.

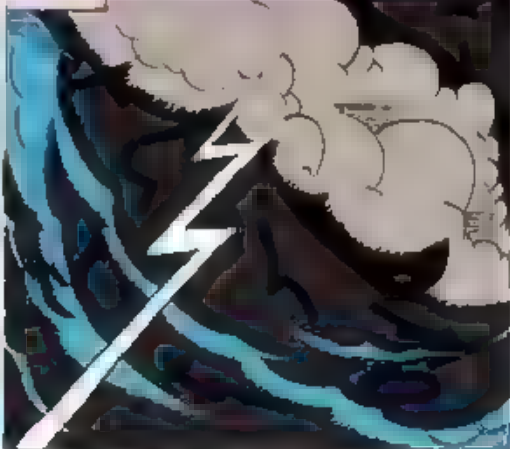
I SHALL CALL IN THE REAPERS TOMORROW.



BUT THAT NIGHT, BLACK CLOUDS GATHERED...



...THUNDER AND LIGHTNING RENT THE SKY...





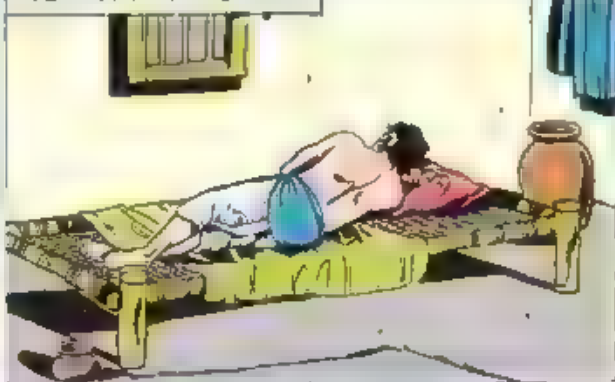
...AND A RAGING STORM BROKE OUT.



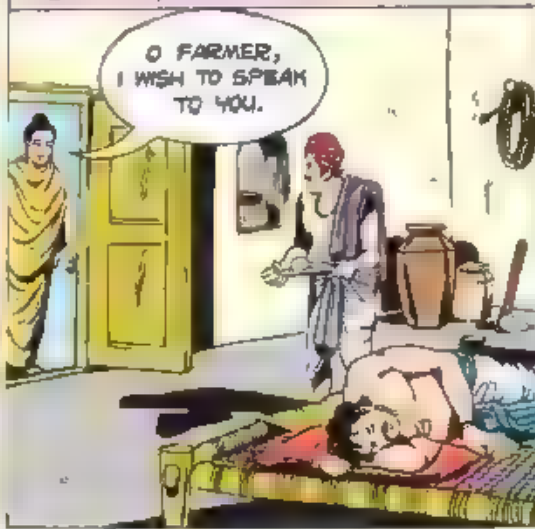
THE NEXT MORNING, WHEN THE FARMER HURRIED TO HIS FIELD —

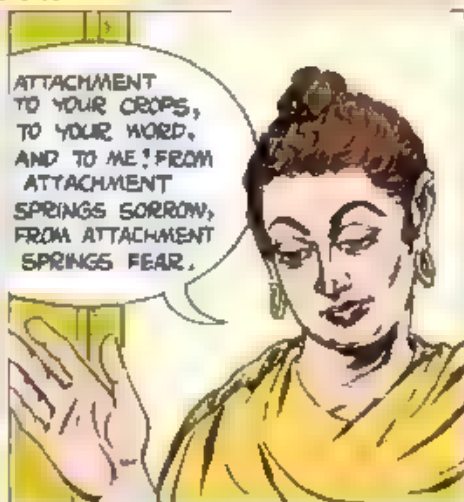
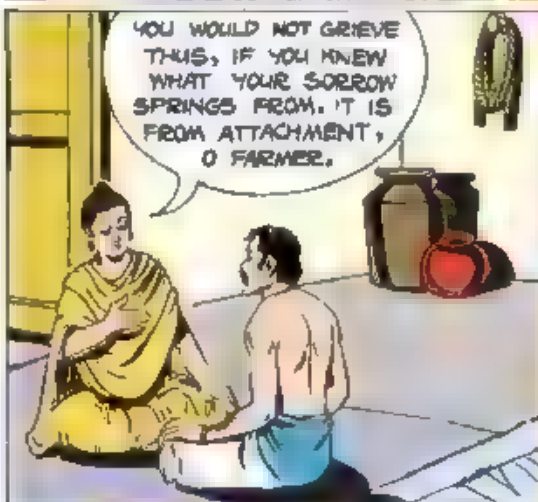
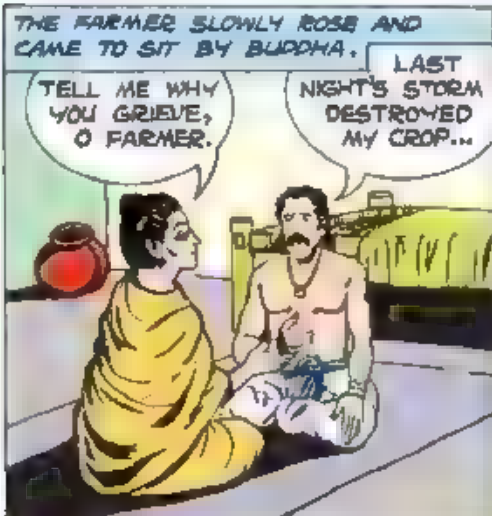


THE GRIEF-STRIKEN FARMER RETURNED HOME AND TOOK TO HIS BED.



JUST THEN, BUDDHA ARRIVED THERE.





# THE GOLDEN MAIDEN

IN THE TOWN OF SRANSTI LIVED YOUNG MUMARA. HE WAS THE SON OF RICH PARENTS AND HE HAD COME OF AGE.

SON, YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO BE MARRIED. WE SHALL CHOOSE A GOOD, BEAUTIFUL GIRL FOR YOU AND...

FATHER, I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED.

BUT THE OLD COUPLE DID NOT GIVE UP. EVERY ONCE IN A WAY, THEY PUT THE QUESTION TO HIM AGAIN. AT LAST...

THEY WILL NOT TAKE 'NO' FOR AN ANSWER.

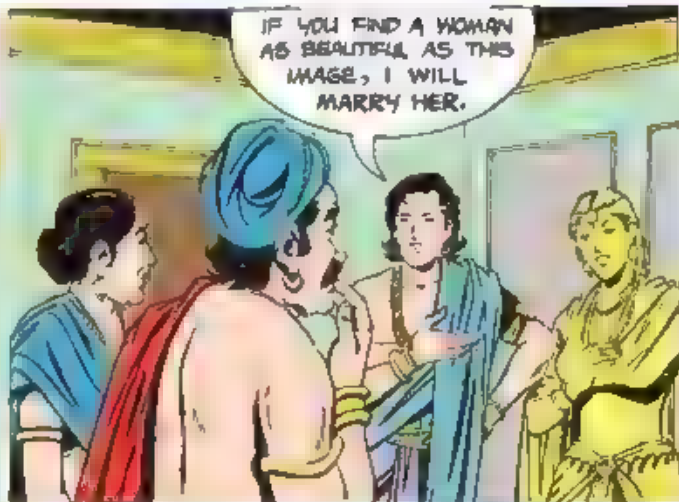
THE ONLY WAY OUT IS TO AGREE BUT MAKE SURE THAT THEY WON'T FIND THE GIRL FOR ME.

THE YOUNG MAN GOT SKILLED ARTISANS TO CARVE A GOLDEN IMAGE OF MATCHLESS BEAUTY. THEN—

MOTHER! FATHER! I WILL MARRY BUT...

...ONLY ONE SUCH AS THIS!



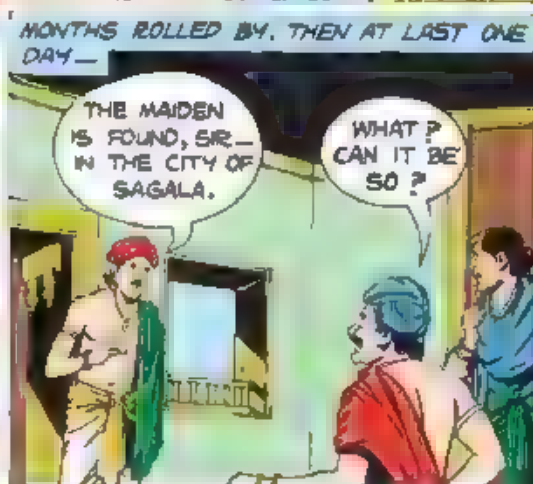


IF YOU FIND A WOMAN  
AS BEAUTIFUL AS THIS  
IMAGE, I WILL  
MARRY HER.



WE WILL FIND HER. THIS  
IMAGE... WILL BE TAKEN...  
FROM TOWN TO TOWN  
...TILL SUCH A GIRL  
IS FOUND,

YOU'LL  
NEVER FIND  
HER.

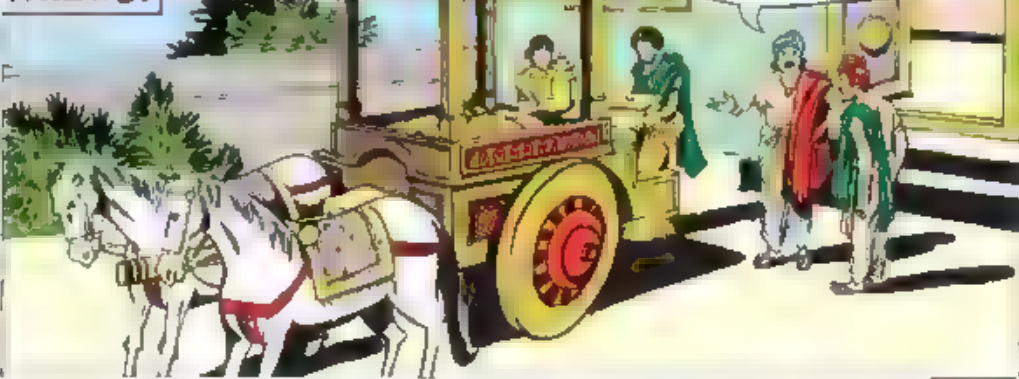


MONTHS ROLLED BY. THEN AT LAST ONE  
DAY—

THE MAIDEN  
IS FOUND, SIR—  
IN THE CITY OF  
SAGALA.

WHAT?  
CAN IT BE  
SO?

THE DELIGHTED OLD COUPLE SENT  
FORTH A MESSENGER WITH RICH  
GIFTS FOR THE MAIDEN AND HER  
PARENTS.



LET HER BE  
BROUGHT HERE WITH  
ALL SPEED.

MUMARA RECEIVED THE NEWS WITH MIXED FEELINGS.

WHEN I GOT THE STATUE MADE, I NEVER IMAGINED THAT SUCH A GIRL COULD BE FOUND.

BUT NOW THAT SHE IS FOUND, I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE HER!

THEY SAY THAT COMPARED WITH THE IMAGE...

...SHE IS FAR, FAR LOVELIER! I CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE THE EXTENT OF HER BEAUTY!

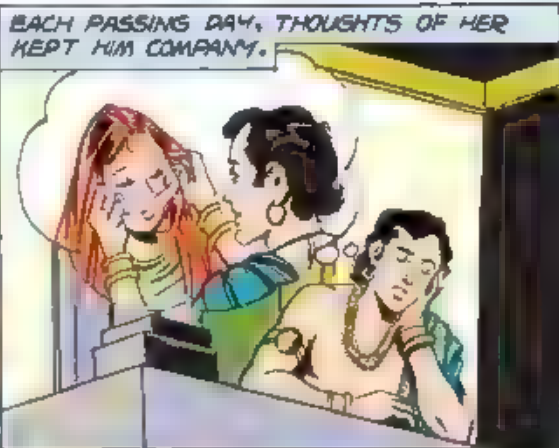
HE IMPATIENTLY AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF THE GIRL.

IS THAT HER CARRIAGE?

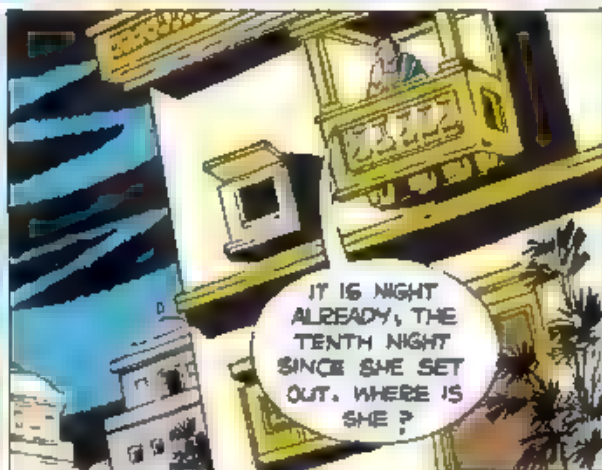
NO! IT IS NOT. OH, HOW SLOWLY THE HOURS CRAWL BY!



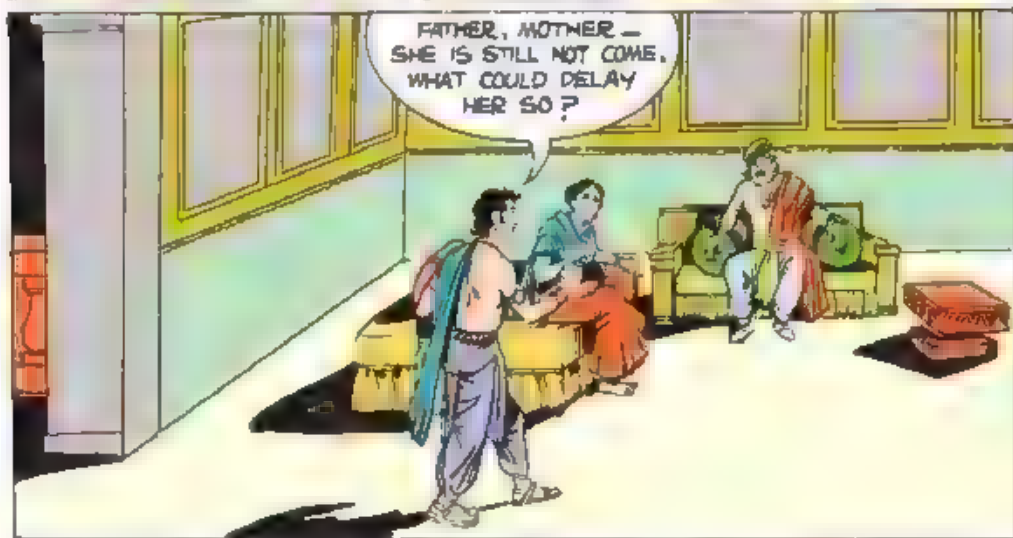
EACH PASSING DAY, THOUGHTS OF HER KEPT HIM COMPANY.



OH!

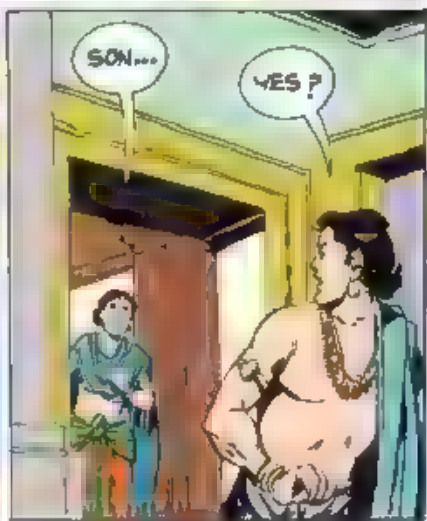
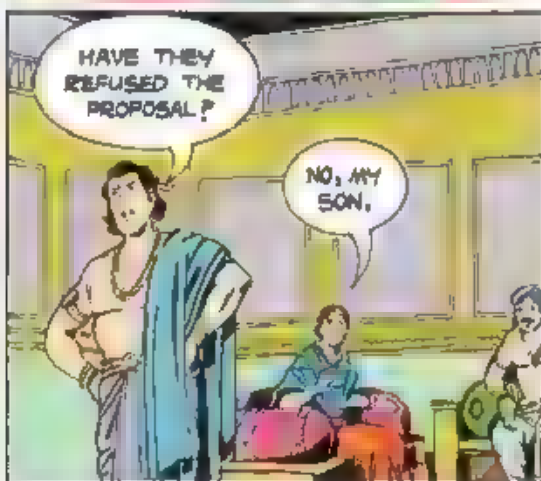


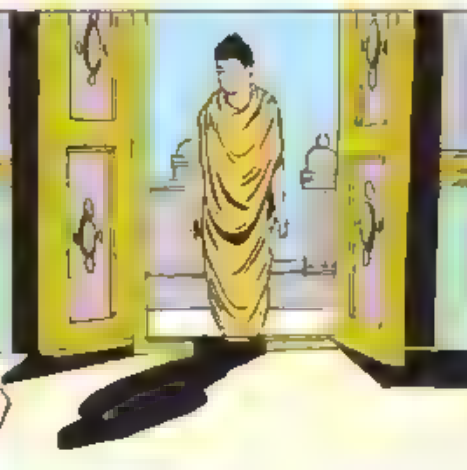
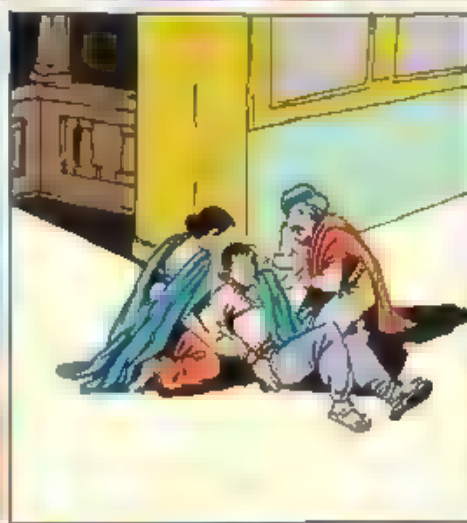
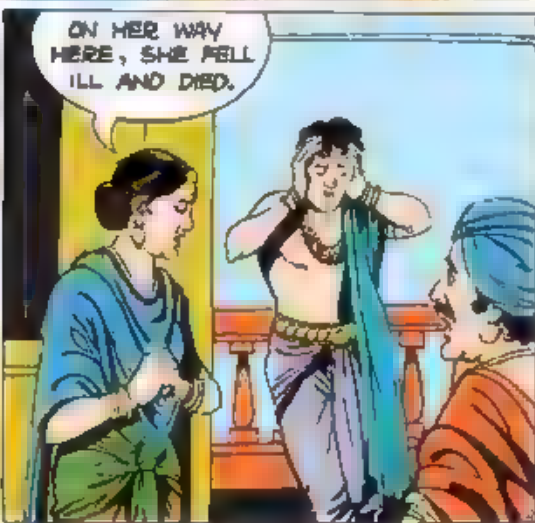
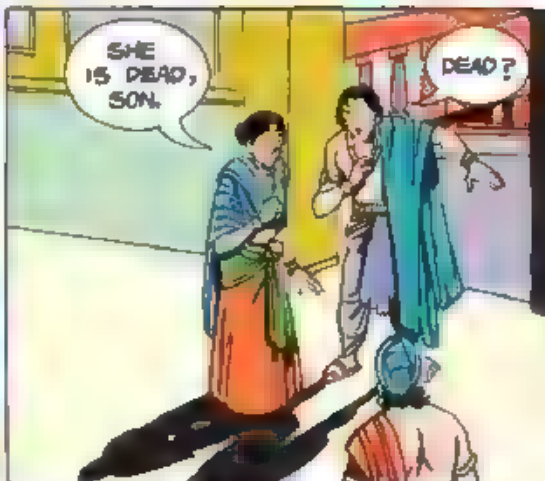
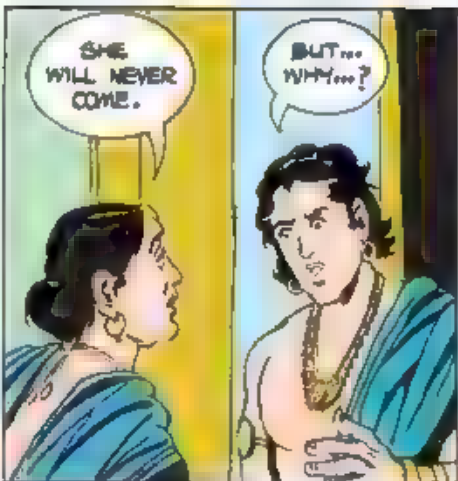
IT IS NIGHT ALREADY, THE TENTH NIGHT SINCE SHE SET OUT. WHERE IS SHE?

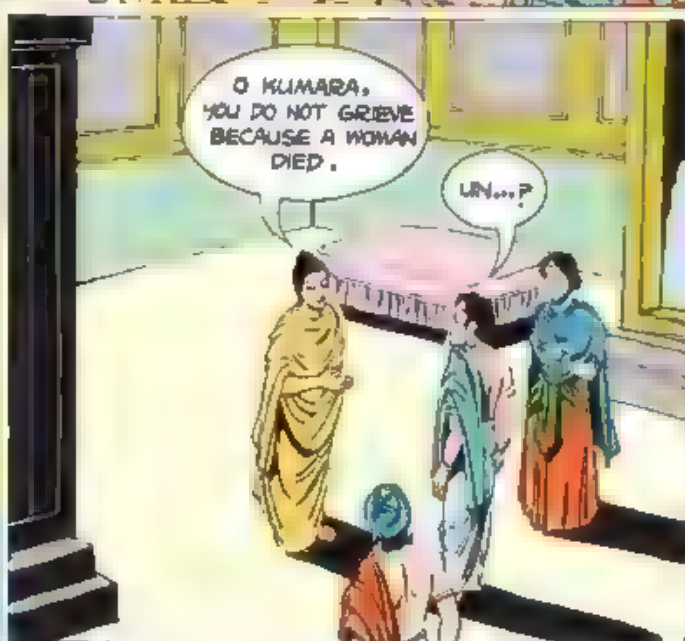
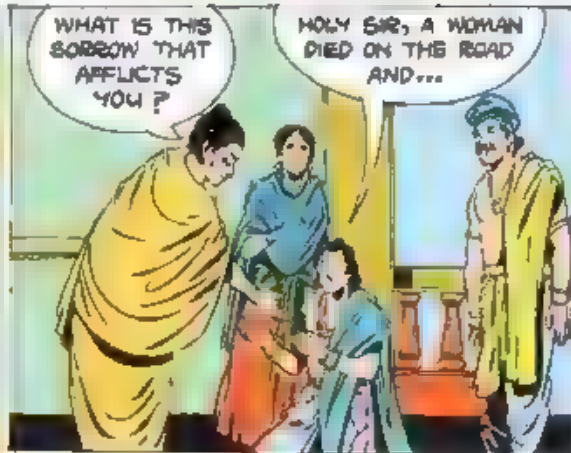


FATHER, MOTHER - SHE IS STILL NOT COME. WHAT COULD DELAY HER SO?











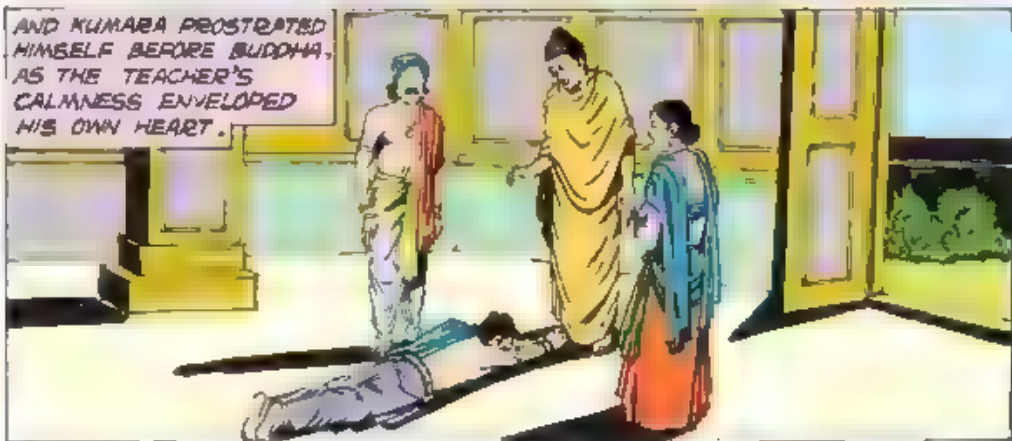
YOU GRIEVE  
BECAUSE THE WOMAN  
YOU DES RED  
DIED .



FROM DESIRE SPRINGS SORROW;  
FROM DESIRE SPRINGS FEAR.  
HE THAT IS FREE FROM DESIRE  
NEITHER SORROWS NOR FEARS.



AND KUMARA PROSTRATED  
HIMSELF BEFORE BUDDHA,  
AS THE TEACHER'S  
CALMNESS ENVELOPED  
HIS OWN HEART.



# BUDDHA AND KRISHA GAUTAMI

HE HAS NOT  
WOKEN UP FOR  
HOURS. HE MUST  
BE VERY ILL  
INDEED.

ONCE, IN THE TOWN OF SRAVASTI, A WOMAN  
WAS SITTING BY HER CHILD'S BED.

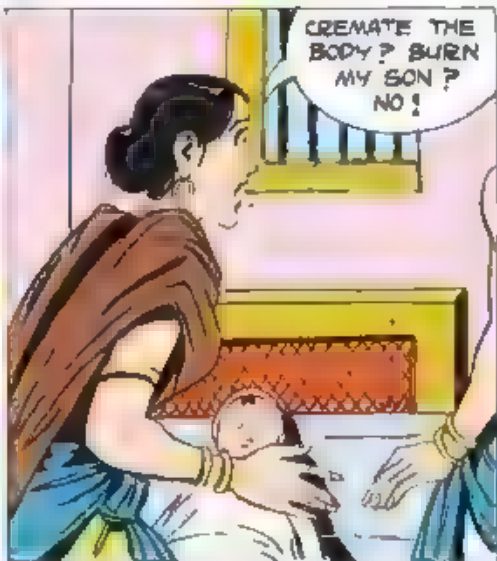
HOW IS  
THE CHILD,  
GAUTAMI?

THE MAN WAS KRISHA  
GAUTAMI'S HUSBAND  
AND THE FATHER  
OF THE CHILD.

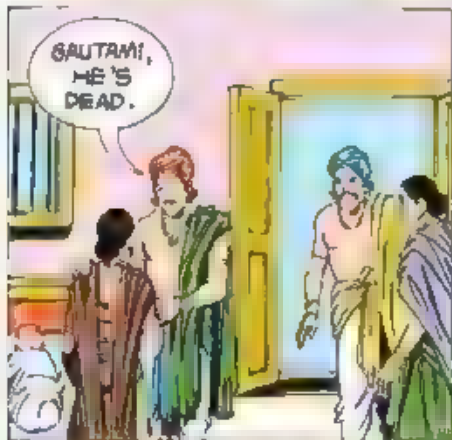
OH, GOD! NO! HE  
IS DEAD.



SO, SON, MAKE  
ARRANGEMENTS  
TO CREMATE THE  
BODY.



CREMATE THE  
BODY? BURN  
MY SON?  
NO!



GAUTAMI,  
HE'S  
DEAD.



THEN I WILL FIND  
A REMEDY FOR  
DEATH.



GAUTAMI! WAIT!  
COME BACK! DON'T  
YOU UNDERSTAND?  
HE'S DEAD.



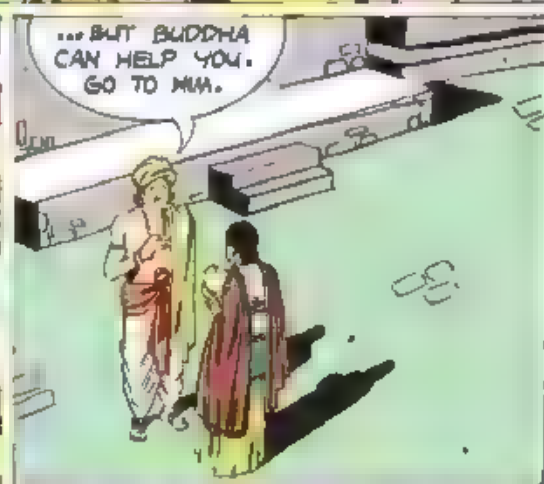


POOR WOMAN! SHE HAS PROBABLY NOT SEEN A DEAD PERSON BEFORE. I MUST HELP HER.

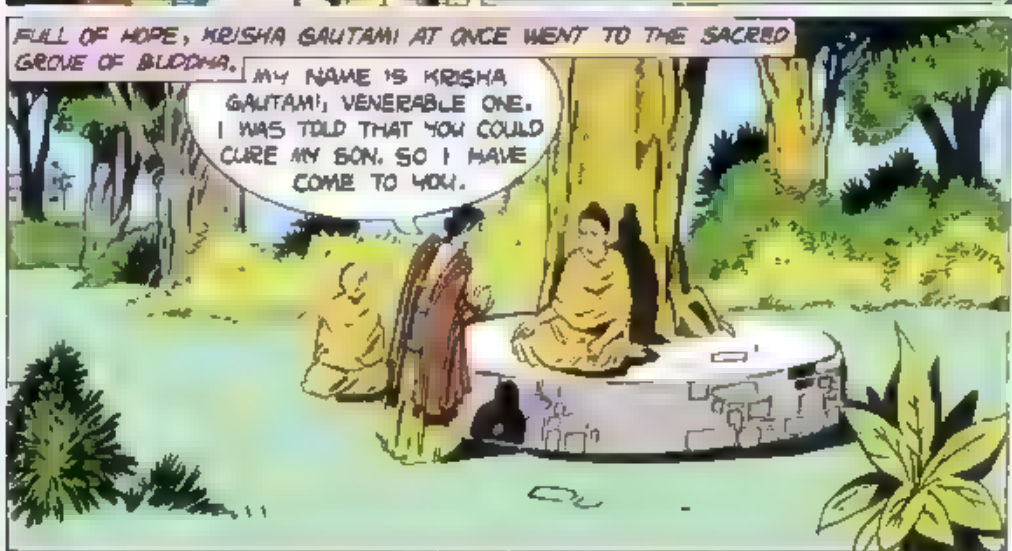


KIND SIR, DO YOU KNOW OF ANY REMEDY FOR MY SON?

I'M AFRAID, I DON'T. BUT...



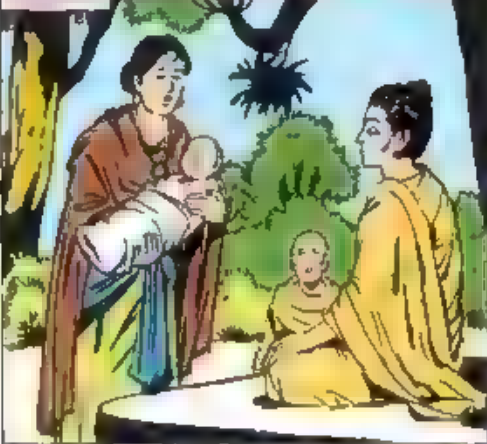
...BUT BUDDHA CAN HELP YOU. GO TO HIM.



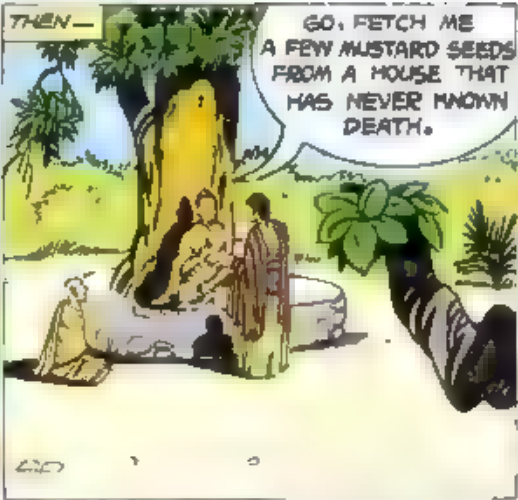
FULL OF HOPE, KRISHA GAUTAMI AT ONCE WENT TO THE SACRED GROVE OF BUDDHA.

MY NAME IS KRISHA GAUTAMI, VENERABLE ONE. I WAS TOLD THAT YOU COULD CURE MY SON. SO I HAVE COME TO YOU.

BUDDHA LOOKED AT THE CHILD AND  
SMILED.

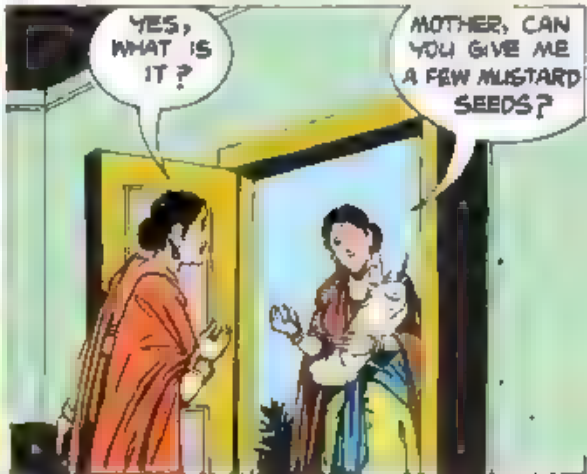


THEN —



GO, FETCH ME  
A FEW MUSTARD SEEDS  
FROM A HOUSE THAT  
HAS NEVER KNOWN  
DEATH.

KRISHNA GAUTAMI SET OUT ON HER  
QUEST.



YES,  
WHAT IS  
IT ?

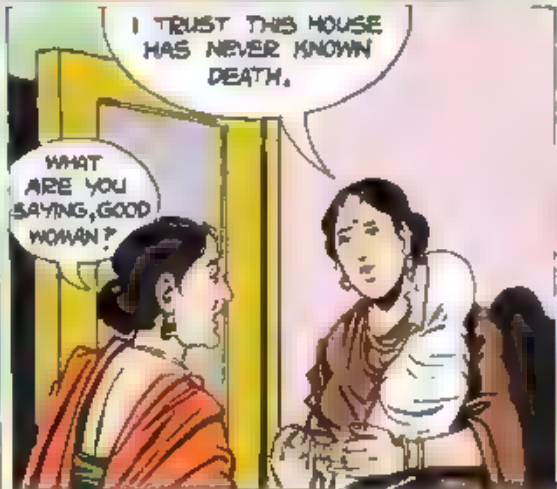
MOTHER, CAN  
YOU GIVE ME  
A FEW MUSTARD  
SEEDS ?

THE WOMAN WENT IN AND BROUGHT  
THE SEEDS.



HERE YOU  
ARE.

THANK YOU,  
MOTHER.

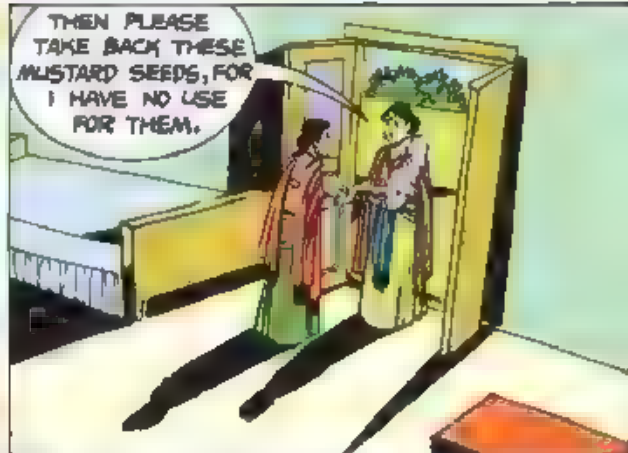


I TRUST THIS HOUSE  
HAS NEVER KNOWN  
DEATH.

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING, GOOD  
WOMAN ?

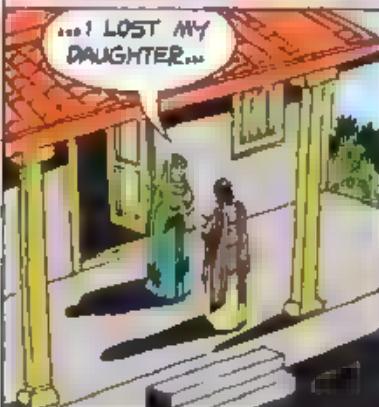


WE THAT ARE LIVING  
ARE FEW, COMPARED  
WITH THOSE THAT  
HAVE DIED  
HERE.



THEN PLEASE  
TAKE BACK THESE  
MUSTARD SEEDS, FOR  
I HAVE NO USE  
FOR THEM.

HRISHA GAUTAMI WENT ON HER QUEST FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE.  
BUT EVERYWHERE IT WAS THE SAME. EVERY HOUSE HAD KNOWN DEATH  
AND EVERY DEAD BODY HAD BEEN BURNT TO ASHES.



...I LOST MY  
DAUGHTER...



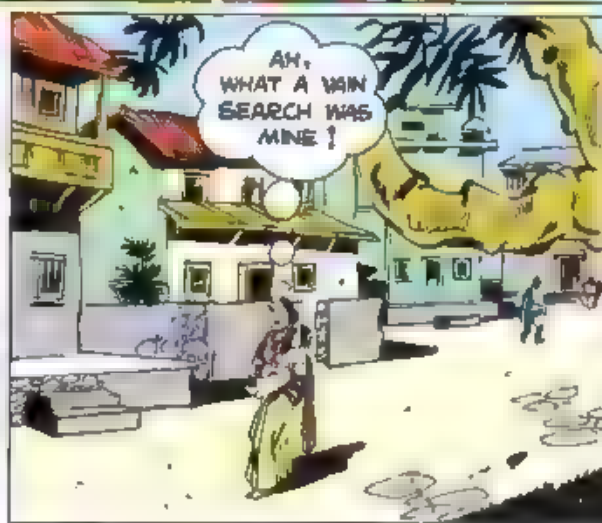
...MY  
BROTHER  
DIED LAST  
YEAR...



THEY HAVE TAKEN  
MY OLD FATHER TO THE  
CREMATION GROUND TO  
BE BURNT...



SO THOSE THAT  
ARE DEAD CAN NEVER  
BE CURED, AFTER  
ALL.



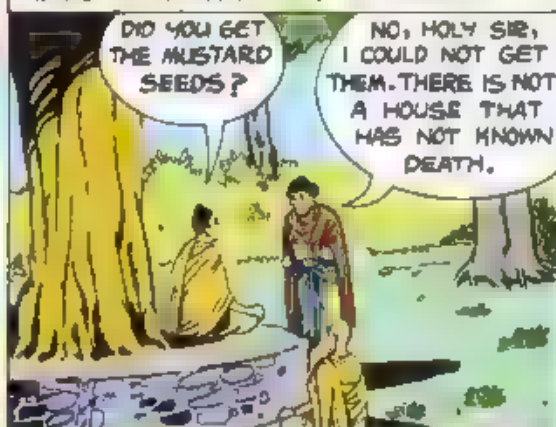
AH,  
WHAT A VAIN  
SEARCH WAS  
MINE!



KRISHA GAUTAMI WENT TO THE FOREST, Laid HER CHILD UPON A CARPET OF FALLEN LEAVES AND FLOWERS...



... AND THEN WENT BACK TO BUDDHA.



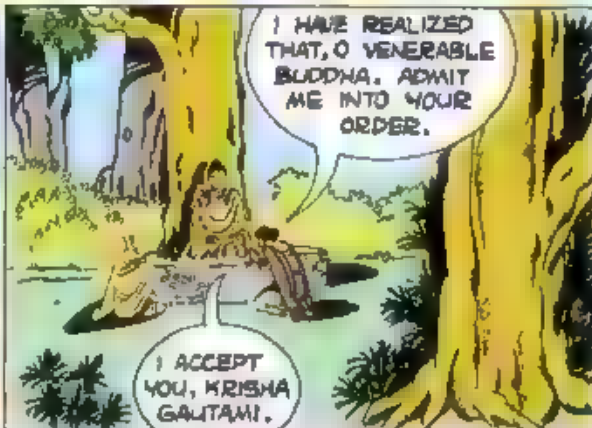
DID YOU GET THE MUSTARD SEEDS?

NO, HOLY SIR, I COULD NOT GET THEM. THERE IS NOT A HOUSE THAT HAS NOT KNOWN DEATH.

O KRISHA GAUTAMI, IT IS NOT YOU ALONE WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD TO DEATH.



I HAVE REALIZED THAT, O VENERABLE BUDDHA. ADMIT ME INTO YOUR ORDER.



I ACCEPT YOU, KRISHA GAUTAMI.

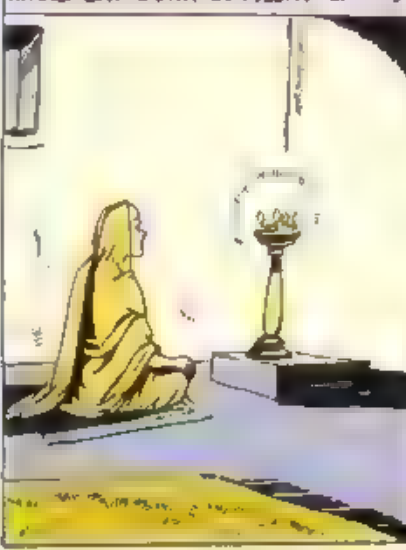
KRISHA GAUTAMI WAS ADMITTED INTO BUDDHA'S FOLD.

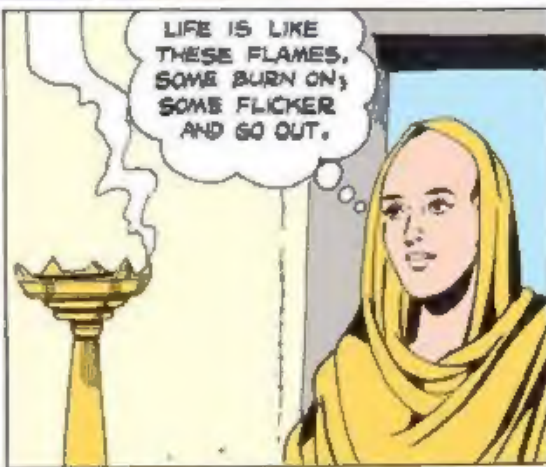
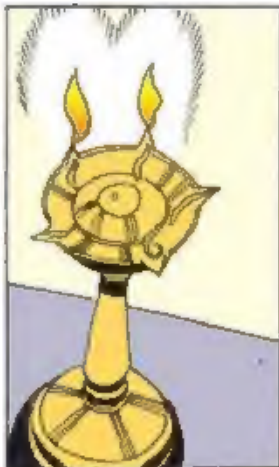


ONE DAY, WHEN IT WAS HER TURN, SHE LIT THE LAMP...

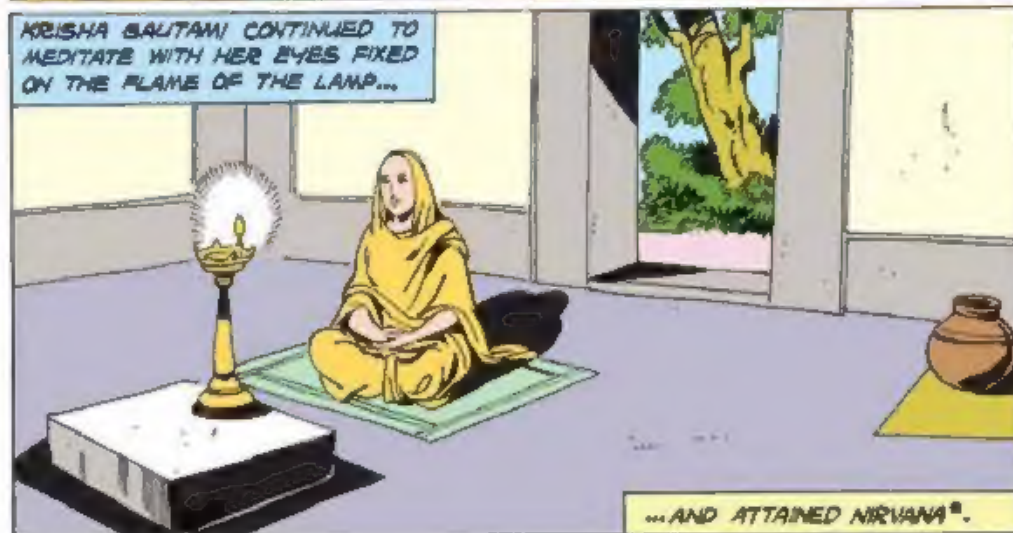


...AND SAT DOWN IN FRONT OF IT.





KRISHA BAUTAMI CONTINUED TO MEDITATE WITH HER EYES FIXED ON THE FLAME OF THE LAMP...



...AND ATTAINED NIRVANA\*.

\* THE PERFECT STATE



# THE PERFECTIONIST

THERE WAS ONCE A CARPENTER WHO PRIDED HIMSELF ON THE QUALITY OF HIS WORK.

HMM-M. GOOD, BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH. IT NEEDS IMPROVING. HOW LET ME SEE...



JUST THEN A MAN WALKED IN.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SIR?

MY WIFE HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH A CHILD.

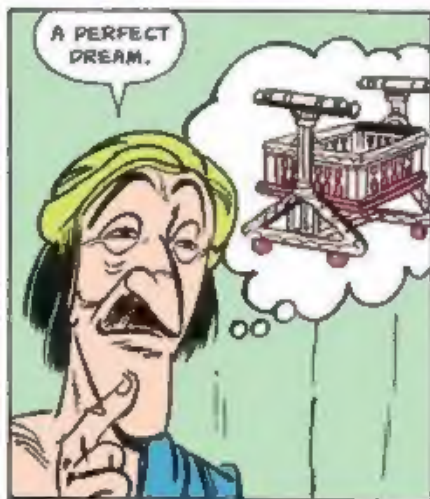


I NEED A CRADLE.

YOU HAVE COME TO THE RIGHT MAN. I'LL MAKE YOU THE BEST CRADLE YOU HAVE EVER SEEN.



A PERFECT DREAM.



WHEN CAN I COME FOR IT?

IT SHOULD BE READY IN A WEEK FROM NOW.





A WEEK LATER —

I'VE COME  
FOR THE  
CRADLE.

EH?  
THE  
CRADLE?

OH! THE CRADLE!  
AH! THE CRADLE!

I WILL BE HONEST  
WITH YOU, SIR.  
IT IS NOT YET  
READY.

AFTER ALL, IT HAS  
GOT TO BE THE BEST  
YOU WILL AGREE.

SHALL  
I COME  
TOMORROW?

GIVE ME A  
WEEK, SIR. THE  
CRADLE HAS TO  
BE A DREAM,  
DON'T FORGET,  
SIR.

WEEK AFTER WEEK, THE FATHER CAME, BUT —

NO, IT IS NOT YET  
READY, SIR. I AM NOT  
SATISFIED WITH MY  
WORK. WHATEVER I  
DO MUST BE PERFECT.

SOON THE CHILD WAS TOO OLD TO NEED A CRADLE, SO THE FATHER GAVE UP GOING TO THE CARPENTER.

BY AND BY THE BOY GREW UP, GOT MARRIED AND IN HIS TURN BECAME THE PROUD FATHER OF A CHILD.

GO TO OUR CARPENTER, TODAY.

ASK HIM IF THE CRADLE I HAD ORDERED FOR YOU IS READY. YOUR SON COULD USE IT.

SOON --

THE CRADLE MY FATHER ORDERED FOR ME WHEN I WAS BORN SHOULD BE READY BY NOW. SO...

IT ISN'T. AND LOOK, SIR!

LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR. I TAKE PRIDE IN MY WORK.

AND I WILL NOT PERMIT YOU OR YOUR FATHER TO RUSH ME.

THE YOUNG MAN WAS ABOUT TO PROTEST BUT REALISED IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO ARGUE WITH THE PERFECTIONIST, SO HE QUIETLY LEFT THE PLACE.